Ukraina/Errusia/AEB/NATO (Jolas bukatua. Falta dena garbiketa lana da) (I)

Ukraina/Errusia/AEB/NATO (Jolas bukatua. Falta dena garbiketa lana da) (1)

Game over. What's left is mop-up

Twitter bazuk

Prentsa ofizialaren gainetik

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

dailymail.co.uk

Hunter Biden helped secure millions for biotech research Ukraine

Email emails and correspondence obtained by DailyMail.com from Hunter's abandoned laptop show he helped secure millions for Metabiota.

2022 mar. 26

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George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely-

<u>18 h</u>

"Speech slip up." Remember that the definition of a "gaffe" is a comment in which a politician blurts out something that's true but isn't supposed to say.

dailymail.co.uk

White House corrects Biden after hinting US troops WOULD go to Ukraine

'You're going to see when you're there... you're going to see women, young people, standing in the middle, in front of a damn tank, saying,

000000

Michael Savage@ASavageNation

what bioweapons labs in Ukraine? oh they're real & the Biden's cashed in

nypost.com

Hunter Biden helped secure funds for US biolab contractor in Ukraine:...

A trove of e-mails on Hunter Biden's infamous laptop found that he played a role in helping a California defense contractor analyze killer diseases and bioweapons in Ukraine.

2022 mar. 26·

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Michael Savage@ASavageNation

<u>14 h</u>

'DEMOCRACY' 'FREEDOM' 'RULE OF LAW' 'FREEDOM TO SPEAK' for POLAND, but not for AMERICAN DISSIDENTS at HOME, Mr Biden!

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Michael Savage@ASavageNation

<u>14 h</u>

NOT ONE WORD ABOUT PEACE FROM BIDEN! NOTHING, ZERO. more war!

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>20 h</u>

It is not the Russia-Ukraine war that has "upended the world order" – the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria had already done that. It is the unprecedented sanctions that are destroying globalization.

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Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>20 h</u>

US and EU efforts to punish Russia are resulting in the unravelling of globalism, because decision-makers now must reconsider their foreign investments and vulnerabilities.

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Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>20 h</u>

The decoupling of Russia from the global economy is prompting companies and governments to reconsider their manufacturing and assembly footprints. Many people will be losing money.

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Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

20 h

It is not Russia that is waging this insane economic war, it is the West itself that is dismantling that "brave new world" called globalization that it had spawned and nurtured for decades.

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Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

20 h

We need good faith and golden bridges – not only bridges to allow adversaries to retreat without losing too much face, as Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu proposed 25 hundred years ago in The Art of War, but negotiation bridges for both parties to advance across.

000000

Max Blumenthal@MaxBlumenthal

"For god's sake this man can not remain in power!" After denying NATO enlargement has anything to do with destabilizing Russia, Biden closes his Poland address with a stentorian demand for regime change in Moscow. Washington's ultimate goal, made plain.

2022 mar. 26

Ikusi bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1507787824912904211

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Hans Mahncke@HansMahncke

<u>12 h</u>

What a disgraceful lie. Biden said what he said. We all heard it and he owns it. If his excuse is that he's not able to accurately express himself without some government flunky having to clean up after him, he needs to resign.

Txioa aipatu

zerohedge@zerohedge

13 h

White House official explains what Biden actually tried to say: "The President's point was that Putin cannot be allowed to exercise power over his neighbors or the region. He was not discussing Putin's power in Russia, or regime change."

000000

Aaron Maté@aaronjmate

<u>12 h</u>

There's nothing "inarticulate" about Biden's rhetoric here: he's admitting in blunt terms that the US has used Ukraine to foment regime change in Russia, and no amount of desperate spin can hide it. This also explains why his admin sabotaged diplomacy pre-invasion and since.

Txioa aipatu

Tyler Pager@tylerpager

12 h

Biden's line tonight saying Putin "cannot remain in power" was NOT planned and a surprise to U.S. officials, per people familiar. Still, officials say no change in policy. Instead, the line was an example of Biden's sometimes inarticulate rhetoric. https://washingtonpost.com/world/2022/03/

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George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

11 h

This has to be one of the most catastrophic foreign trips made by any US president. It was Biden's choice to go visit Poland, the most insanely bellicose NATO member state. It was bound to end in disaster.

Txioa aipatu

Jacqui Heinrich@JacquiHeinrich

13 h

Multiple times on this trip the WH has clarified Biden's remarks:

- US won't use chemical weapons after Biden says US would respond to Russian chemical attack "in kind"
- US troops won't go to Ukraine after telling 82nd airborne of what horror they're "about to see"

Erakutsi haria

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Dan Cohen@dancohen3000

mar. 25

First they sent "fact-checkers" after her but they couldn't challenge a single fact. Then her site came under DDoS attack. Now Twitter is warning that her website is "unsafe." The powers that be don't want to you read

@dgaytandzhieva's work, which means you should.



Warning: this link may be unsafe

https://dilyana.bg

The link you are trying to access has been identified by Twitter or our partners as being potentially spammy or unsafe, in accordance with Twitter's URL Policy. This link could fall into any of the below categories:

- malicious links that could steal personal information or harm electronic devices
- · spammy links that mislead people or disrupt their experience
- violent or misleading content that could lead to real-world harm
- certain categories of content that, if posted directly on Twitter, are a violation of the Twitter Rules

Back to previous page

Ignore this warning and continue

Txioa aipatu

Dilyana Gaytandzhieva@dgaytandzhieva

mar. 24

Twitter has censored my investigative journalism platform https://dilyana.bg by marking it as "unsafe and spam" although I have SSL certificates and secure connection. I am asking all of you, please, write to @TwitterSupport and ask them to stop censoring real journalism

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Aaron Maté@aaronimate

<u>11 h</u>

Because he isn't a smooth conman like Bill Clinton or Obama, Biden often blurts out the truth about US policy. When it comes to Syria, he admitted that the US side spent "hundreds of millions" to arm "Al-Qaeda and the extremist elements of jihadis."

Bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1507816427520241666

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Hans Mahncke@HansMahncke

<u>11 h</u>

All the media and establishment frauds who kept talking about 25A when Trump was around are awfully quiet now that 25A is actually needed.

Txioa aipatu

Rising serpent@rising serpent

11 h

We went from "minor incursion" to "He's a butcher and we need a regime change" to "That's not what I meant" real fast.

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Pedro L. Gonzalez@emeriticus

11 h

Russia is trying to end the war in Ukraine as quickly as possible. Washington is trying to prolong and enlarge it and involve more people in it. Which one of these poses a greater threat to Americans?

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Maria Dubovikova@politblogme

20 h

Scholz and Macron do not want to pay for gas in rubles, because this is "not stipulated in the contracts." Which contracts stipulate anti-Russian sanctions Scholz and Macron do not specify.

000000

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

6 h

From Biden's speech in Warsaw. I guess no one told Biden about Ukraine's outlawing of all opposition political parties and all opposition media. https://whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/

She fought her whole life for essential democratic principles. And now, in the perennial struggle for democracy and freedom, Ukraine and its people are on the frontlines fighting to save their nation.

And their brave resistance is part of a larger fight for an essential democratic principles that unite all free people: the rule of law; free and fair elections; the freedom to speak, to write, and to assemble; the freedom to worship as one chooses; freedom of the press.

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tim anderson@timand2037

As with #Aleppo, the #NATO embedded media reports everyday on the horrors of #Mariupol, but without a single reporter there. If you want #eyewitness reports from civilians you have to watch #Russian language media, blocked by NATO. These evacuee reports are from #Belarus TV.

Bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1507903502470721537

Erakutsi haria

000000

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

5 h

Numbers far more realistic-sounding than the idiotic propaganda emanating from NATO & Ukraine.

Txioa aipatu

Russians With Attitude@RWApodcast

mar. 25

"Unfortunately, there have been casualties among our comrades-in-arms during the special military operation. As of today 1,351 servicemen have been killed and 3,825 wounded" - Russian Ministry of Defense

Erakutsi haria

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Game is over! What's left is mop-up

Falta dena garbiketa lana da, besterik ez!

tim anderson@timand2037

22 h

<u>#Zelensky</u> and the embedded <u>#NATO</u> media: "powerful blows" dealt to Russian forces. <u>Meanwhile</u>, a large group of <u>#Ukrainian</u> troops surrender to <u>#Russian</u> forces, near <u>#Kiev</u>. 26 March 2022. Video thanks to

@Levi_godman

Ikusi bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1507649208114843653

Non daude euskal komunikabideak?

N-garren galaxian?

Ados al daude etengabeko manipulazio hauekin?

Non ezkutatu dira kazetari 'jator, objektibo, profesional' guztiak?

Etxean badakite nola manipulatu!

Gogoratu mandanga¹ dela eta, orain dela urte askotxoan hasia!

Progre, ezkertiar, independentistak?

Kaka hutsa: kakati, eskumatar (NATO eta Europar Distopiaren alde), eta neoautonomistak (gehi neokarlistak eta neoliberalak²)

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Ukraina/Errusia/AEB/NATO (Jolas bukatua. Falta dena garbiketa lana da) (2)

Game over. What's left is mop-up

(https://twitter.com/GeorgeSzamuely/status/1508198372729044998)

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

He's going to go on playing this game forever.

Txioa aipatu

The Hill@thehill

2 h

Zelensky opens door to making neutral status part of peace deal http://hill.cm/WLYfUV4

2022 mar. 27

Falta dena garbiketa lana da, besterik ez!

Prentsa ofizialean azaldu ez zena

January 7, 2022

Six Things the Media Won't Tell You About Ukraine

by Ted Snider

(https://www.counterpunch.org/2022/01/07/six-things-the-media-wont-tell-you-about-ukraine/)

On January 10, American and Russian officials will meet to discuss Putin's proposal on mutual security guarantees. Western media and political analysts have cast Putin's demands that NATO not expand further east to Ukraine and that NATO not establish military bases in former Soviet states nor use them to carry out military activity as bold and impossible.

Here are six crucial pieces of background that the western media will not tell you.

¹ Mandanga, zer ote da?

² Neoliberala al zara?

The NATO Promise

Putin's demands are only bold if it is bold to ask NATO to keep its promises; his demands are only impossible if it is impossible for NATO to keep its promises.

On February 9, 1990, Secretary of State James Baker assured Gorbachev that if NATO got Germany – a huge concession – NATO would not expand one inch east of Germany. The next day, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher made the same promise to his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadz. Earlier, on January 31, 1990, Genscher had already publicly declared in a major speech that there would not be "an expansion of NATO territory to the east, in other words, closer to the borders of the Soviet Union."

Recently <u>declassified documents</u> make it clear that all the western powers, including not only the US and Germany but also the UK and France, repeatedly made Russia the same promise.

Seven years later, when the US had already broken that promise, Clinton made Russia a second promise. Having expanded NATO far east of Germany, at least they would not permanently station substantial combat forces. That was the promise the US signed in the NATO-Russia Founding Act on Mutual Relations. It was a reiteration of the earlier February 1990 promise that, not only NATO membership, but NATO troops would not extend east.

So, far from being bold or asking the ridiculous, what the media will not tell you is that Putin is not asking for any new Western concessions. He is asking only that the West honor the commitments it has already made.

The Coup

The catalyst for the crisis today in Ukraine was the 2014 coup. That coup was set up and supported by the US. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych was faced with the choice of economic alliance with the European Union or with Russia. Polls at the time clearly showed that Ukrainians were nearly evenly split on which economic alliance to choose. Yanukovych's choice of either package would have divided the country. Putin offered Yanukovych a way out: both Russia and the EU could help Ukraine and Yanukovych doesn't have to be forced to choose. The US and EU rejected Putin's peace offering. According to Stephen Cohen, Professor Emeritus of Russian Studies at Princeton, "it was the European Union, backed by Washington, that said in November to the democratically elected President of a profoundly divided country, Ukraine, 'You must choose between Europe and Russia.'"

The stage was now set for strife in Ukraine. And the US stoked that strife. Led by Senator John McCain and Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian affairs Victoria Nuland, the US publicly endorsed and supported the coup protesters. The White House then provided cover and legitimacy to the violent protesters in the streets. Through The National Endowment for Democracy, the US also funded projects that helped fuel the coup.

More sinister than that even, the US was deeply involved in the plotting of the coup itself. Nuland was caught plotting who the Americans want to be the winner of the regime change. She can be heard on an intercepted call telling the American ambassador in Kiev, Geoffrey Pyatt, that Arseniy Yatsenyuk is America's choice to replace Yanukovych (and he did). Most importantly, Pyatt refers to the West needing to "midwife this thing," a metaphorical admission of America's role in leading the coup. At one point, Nuland even seems to say that then Vice President Biden, himself, would be willing to do the midwifery.

Nuland then pressured security forces to stop guarding government buildings and allow the coup protesters in. The opposition then took advantage of the absence of MPs from the south and east because of a pre-scheduled congress of regional politicians and of intimidation that forced many others to flee to ensure that it had the numbers to take over parliament in a coup disguised as democracy.

So instead of a Russian puppet president betraying his people and abandoning an economic alliance with the European Union in favor of an economic alliance with Russia, what the media will not tell you is that the catalyst of the current crisis was a US engineered and supported coup of a

democratically elected president.

The Connection

The media will also not tell you about the crucial connection between the NATO promise not to expand east and the coup in Ukraine. The economic alliance with the EU was not the benign package presented to the Western public. It was not just an economic offer. According to Professor Emeritus of Russian Studies at Princeton, Stephen Cohen, the European Union proposal also "included 'security policy' provisions . . . that would apparently subordinate Ukraine to NATO." The provisions compelled Ukraine to "adhere to Europe's 'military and security' policies." So the proposal was not a benign economic agreement: it was a security threat to Russia in economic sheep's clothing.

Professor of Russian and European Politics at the University of Kent Richard Sakwa says, "EU enlargement paves the way to NATO membership" and points out that, since 1989, every new member of the EU has become a member of NATO. It's not only that the EU package subordinated Ukraine to NATO, since the EU Treaty of Lisbon went into effect in 2009, all new members of the EU are required to align their defense and security policies with NATO.

Far from being just an economic agreement, Article 4 of the EU's Association Agreement with Ukraine says the Agreement will "promote gradual convergence on foreign and security matters with the aim of Ukraine's ever-deeper involvement in the European security area." Article 7 speaks of the convergence of security and defense, and Article 10 says that "the parties shall explore the potential of military and technological cooperation."

So, the EU economic alliance was an aggressive package that hid in it NATO's expansion right up to Russia's border. The media won't tell you that either.

What Crimea Wants

What made Russia's annexation of Crimea so threatening to the US was not the annexation itself. In itself, Crimea is not so important to the US. What was so threatening was what the annexation meant in terms of Russia's relationship to the US and in terms of its changing role in the world order.

Alexander Lukin, who is Head of Department of International Relations at National Research University Higher School of Economics in Moscow and an authority on Russian politics and international relations, explains that the reason the annexation of Crimea was crucial is that, prior to that, since the end of the Cold War, Russia had been considered a subordinate partner of the West. In all disagreements between Russia and the US up to then, Russia had compromised, and the disagreements were resolved rather quickly. "The crisis in Ukraine and Russia's reaction to it have fundamentally changed this consensus," Lukin says. "Russia refused to play by the rules." Crimea marked the end of the unipolar world of American hegemony. Russia drew the line and asserted itself as a new pole in a multipolar world order. That is why the US is so threatened by Russia's response to the events of 2014 and the US coup. It is the battle over which US hegemony will be fought.

The coup in Ukraine led to the Russian annexation of Crimea. But that was not an act of aggression. It was a defensive reaction to Western encroachment deep into its sphere of influence and right up to its borders. It was a defensive reaction to the oppression of Russian-speaking people on its borders. NATO expansion had knocked on Russia's doors. In 2014, "it came to 'brotherly' Ukraine," as Lukin puts it, "a region for which Russia has special feelings and most of whose residents consider themselves Russian." That was Russia's red line, and it annexed Crimea. But not as an act of aggression. Rather the annexation was "in response to the aspirations of a majority of its residents."

Sakwa says that "It is clear that the majority of the Crimean population favored unification with Russia." A majority voted for unification with Russia when the question was put to a referendum. The accuracy of the exact result has been the subject of debate, but Sakwa says that "even in perfect conditions a majority in Crimea would have voted for union with Russia."

So, far from being an act of Russian aggression in seizing Crimea, what the media will not tell you is that Russia was responding to Western aggression and answering the call of the majority of the people of Crimea.

What the Donbas and Russia Want

While the US and the Western media exaggerate the threat of an unprovoked Russian invasion of Ukraine – an invasion Noam Chomsky has recently said that "most serious analysts doubt" – what they won't tell you is that Russia wants very badly not to invade Ukraine. That's why they haven't for the past seven years. Anatol Lieven, who is a senior research fellow at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, points out that "Russia has not annexed Donetsk and Luhansk (the two Ukrainian provinces that make up the Donbas) or recognized their independence." He says that "annexation is not Russia's preferred option for the future of the [Donbas] region," and adds the important reminder that "Moscow could have annexed the Donbas (as it did Crimea) at any time during the past seven years but has refrained from doing so."

When the Donbas region of Eastern Ukraine tried to follow Crimea's path back to Russia, Putin tried to prevent their referendums, even while he accepted Crimea's. Sakwa reports in *Frontline Ukraine* that "Putin showed little sign of wanting a Crimea-style takeover of the region, repeatedly rejecting requests to accept the territory as part of Russia." When Donbas did hold elections, though Putin "respected" the results, he declined to accept them or be bound by them.

In addition to Russia's actions being defensive and not expansionist, there are a number of reasons Putin would be hesitant to invade Ukraine. One is the US promise that it "will respond decisively." Another is the difficulty in winning, controlling and holding the Donbas region. But another is that it is strategically more beneficial for Russia not to annex the Donbas. Anatol Lieven told me in a personal correspondence that "it makes much more sense for Russia to leave the Donbas as part of Ukraine and use it as a lever first to block NATO expansion and secondly (if it can be made an autonomous part of Ukraine) to influence Ukrainian politics from within." As long as the Donbas is part of Ukraine, it can vote against NATO membership; if Russia annexes it, it loses that vote.

So, contrary to the media message, Russia doesn't even want to annex the Donbas. And what do the people of the Donbas want?

The US maintains that it is helpless to promise that Ukraine won't join NATO because it is up to the people of the Ukraine to make that decision. That is ironic because it is not clear that the people of Ukraine want to join NATO, and it is certainly unclear that the people of the Donbas do.

Contrary to the portrayal in the media of a people desperate to escape Russian and to run into the arms of NATO, Volodymyr Ishchenko, research associate at the Institute of East European Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, reports that "Ukrainians are far from unified in support of NATO membership." Ishchenko says that the majority of Ukrainians do not favor NATO membership. He reports that support stands at about 40% but that even that minority number is misleadingly bloated. The number has swelled to 40% by no longer including Ukrainians from the pro-Russian regions of Crimea and Donbas in the surveys. He adds that even where support for an alliance with Russia has dropped, it has not migrated to the NATO camp but to the neutral camp.

So the real picture is one the media won't tell you: Russia doesn't want the Donbas and the Donbas, and possibly even Ukraine, don't want NATO.

Hypocrisy

Russians also feel the sting of hypocrisy when it comes to Ukraine and Crimea. They point to Kosovo and Cuba.

In 2008, the US supported the secession of Kosovo over Russia's objections, but they call Crimea's secession a gross violation of international law by Russia. "As a result," Lukin says, "Russia sees the West's position on Crimea . . . as nothing more than a case of extreme hypocrisy."

Sakwa points out in *Frontline Ukraine* that Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia without even having a referendum. Yet "many Western countries, with the US in the lead, had recognized Kosovo's independence despite repeated UN resolutions upholding the territorial integrity of Yugoslavia." Sakwa also points out that the US endorsed "the infamous advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice . . . that Kosovo's declaration of independence 'did not violate general

international law'." Why is what's fair for Kosovo not fair for Ukraine?

And what about NATO troops and weapons pushing right up to Russia's borders? How would the US respond if Russia placed troops and weapons on America's border? The Munro doctrine tells us clearly how the US would interpret Russian encroachment into the American sphere. And the Cuban missile crisis tells us clearly how the US would react to Russian troops and weapons on America's border.

The annexation of Crimea was not a Russian act of expansionist aggression or intervention. It was the defense of a red line against US expansionism that broke a foundational US and NATO promise and against an interventionist US supported coup. Russia has been unwilling to annex the Donbas and responsive to the will of the majority in annexing Crimea. The US is threatened by Russia's activity because Russia has drawn the line and is no longer playing a submissive and cooperative role in the US led world order. The Eastern Ukraine-Russian border is the line over which the battle of US hegemony is being fought. But the Western media won't tell you that.

This article first appeared on Antiwar.com.

Ted Snider has a graduate degree in philosophy and writes on analyzing patterns in U.S. foreign policy and history. His work has appeared in AntiWar.com, Mondoweiss and others.

Batzuek bazekiten!

Non egon ziren euskal komunikabideak 2022ko urtarril horretan?

Okerrago oraindik: non egon dira komunikabide hyper demokratiko, super objektibo, erabat aurrerakoiak omen bide diren horiek azken zortzi luze hauetan, 2014tik 2022ra?

Badakit iturri onetatik, oso okupatuta egon direla, gutxienez, 2006tik³ (agian lehendik ere, mandanga⁴ dela eta)

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Zenbait twitter

Prentsa ofizialaren kanpotik eta gainetik

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>9 h</u>

"I do not know with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones." is attributed to Albert Einstein. Whether true or apocryphal, it is worth thinking over.

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Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

Peace in Ukraine requires compromise. If the US and EU want regime change in Moscow, we will end up with nuclear war, and then it does not matter anymore.

³ Txillardegi, 2006an: 2006ko Txillardegi.

⁴ Mandanga: zer ote da?

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

It is difficult to talk about peace when we heat-up the arms race and devote huge parts of our national budgets to more missiles, drones and nuclear weapons.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

Eisenhower already warned us that the military-industrial complex is a grave danger to American democracy and that the merchants of death are dictating policy that will lead us to destruction

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

US stewardship of the global financial system has proven to be untrustworthy – not only vis a vis Russia. Everyone is on notice that the US dollar is no longer a safe reserve currency, and gradually countries will bail out.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

We must change our priorities from military-first to human-security economies, and focus on the struggle against pandemics, famine and extreme poverty.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>22 h</u>

The loss of dollar hegemony is a hopeful development for a "rules based international order", whereby the US is deprived of one of its principal blackmailing tools.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

The excesses of the U.S.-instigated sanctions are unleashing forces that ultimately will undermine

medium- and long-term U.S. economic interests in the world. Biden has very short-sighted advisors.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

Calling President <u>#Putin</u> a "butcher" does not have much impact, because every head of state that participated in the assault on Iraq by the "coalition of the willing" in 2003 can by the same standards be called a butcher.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>22 h</u>

Bearing in mind that Jamal <u>#Khashoggi</u> was literally butchered at the Saudi Arabian consulate in Istanbul in 2018, should <u>#Biden</u> be calling Crown Prince Mohammed bin <u>#Salman</u> also a butcher?

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

22 h

<u>#Biden</u>'s statement that <u>#Putin</u> cannot stay in power reminds us of the statements of Biden's predecessors that <u>#Assad</u> could not stay in power in <u>#Syria</u>, the <u>#Castro</u> brothers in <u>#Cuba</u>, Daniel <u>#Ortega</u> in <u>#Nicaragua</u>, Nicolas <u>#Maduro</u> in <u>#Venezuela</u>. It is empty rhetoric.

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Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

<u>14 h</u>

Because we all want a cease fire and sustainable peace in Ukraine, we must de-escalate. Calling Putin a butcher and pushing for "regime change" only throws fuel on the fire.

000000

Alfred de Zayas@Alfreddezayas

13 h

Press TV: Russia: Not up to US to choose Russia President http://youtube.com/watch?v=gxbZh2C5li4

dezayasalfred.wordpress.com

Press TV: Russia: Not up to US to choose Russia President

Post by @AlfreddeZayas.

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George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

19 h

This is so so stupid! An "attack" means an "attack" that is intended. A missile that has gone astray or a bombing mistake is not an "attack." Otherwise, China and the US would have gone to war in 1999 when NATO bombed Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

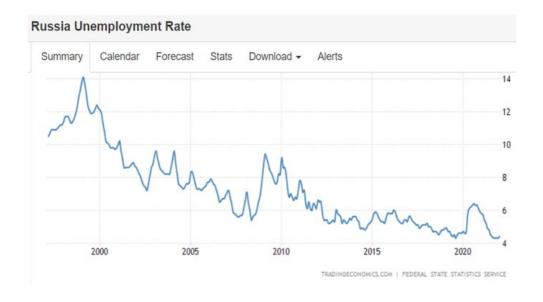
 $\frac{https://thehill.com/policy/international/europe/599908-lviv-hit-with-cruise-missiles-russian-defense-ministry-says}{ministry-says}$

Lviv is about 40 miles from Poland, a NATO member, and the attack increased attention on Article 5, which states that an attack against one NATO ally is an attack against all. Officials in the city reportedly said that citizens have been wounded from the attack.

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Warren B. Mosler #MMT@wbmosler

This kind of track record helps keep him in power:



2022 mar. 23

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cobraf.com GZibordi@CGzibordi

Mar. 23

@wbmosler

erabiltzaileari erantzuten

per capita GDP doubled (but they did austerity to accumulate foreign reserves recently and slowed the economy and then lost them for nothing)



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Paulo Rodrigues@PauloRo75896776

mar. 23

@wbmosler

erabiltzaileari erantzuten

What troubles us in the Ucranian war? Is it really human rights? No! Nobody cares for Palestinians human rights. It's something else.

It's the sheer gall of disobeiyng her highness in the US of A. That's what's bugging us.

000000

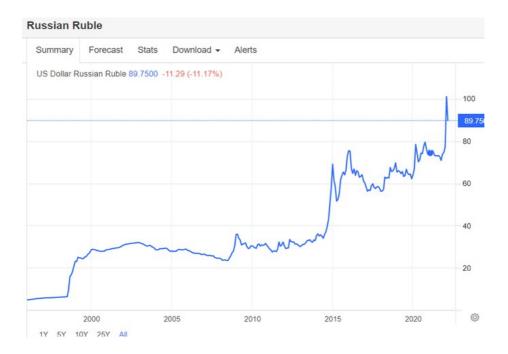
Warren B. Mosler #MMT@wbmosler

Mar. 23

A one time shift from 1998's fixed fx default, a wiggle with the 08 crisis, a one time adjustment for the 2014 war, and now another adjustment for the current war. Meanwhile tax liabilities are in ruble and

the state provisions itself with ruble as the population works for ruble.

(Horixe MTM da, alegia, Moneta-Teoria Modernoa) <---



Erakutsi haria

000000

@tobararbulu # mmt@tobararbulu

<u>12 h</u>

jacobinmag.com

Europe Is Replacing Energy Dependence on Russia With Reliance on North African Dictatorships

The European Union's pivot away from Russian fossil fuels is being sold as part of the green energy transition. Yet the plan's reliance on imports from Morocco and occupied Western Sahara shows how...

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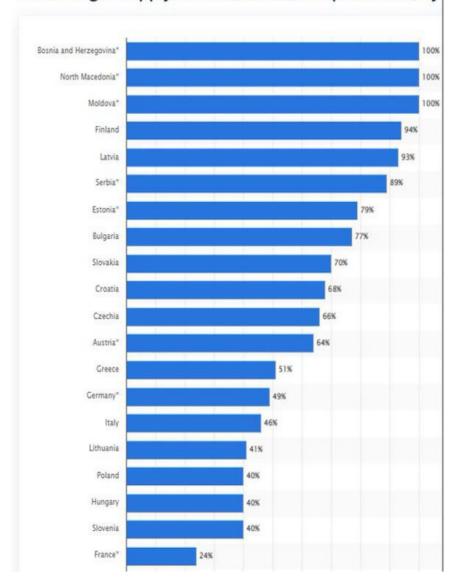
tim anderson@timand2037

mar. 27

Look where <u>#Washington</u> and <u>#NATO</u> expansion have pushed <u>#Europe</u>. Most of them depend on <u>#Russia</u> for gas and they were already in an <u>#EnergyCrisis</u> - source:

https://statista.com/statistics/1201743/russian-gas-dependence-in-europe-by-country/

Share of gas supply from Russia in Europe in 2020, by



Erakutsi haria

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Real Progressives@RealProgressUS

mar. 26

"Under the new initiative, according to a White House fact sheet, the U.S. will help the E.U. secure an additional 15 billion⁵ m³ of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in 2022 "w/ expected increases going forward" — a set-up likely to benefit U.S. gas exporters."

truthout.org

Activists Decry Biden's "Climate-Wrecking" Plan to Boost US Gas Exports to Europe Biden has announced an effort to ramp up US gas shipments to EU countries as they look to reduce dependence on Russia.

⁵ Amerikar bilioi bat = mila milioi europar.

000000

Real Progressives@RealProgressUS

"He (Biden) kept on supporting the war anyway. Since then, w/ Biden's support, the Saudi-led coalition has intensified its bombing to the worst its been since 2018, & the country's humanitarian crisis is worse than it was under Biden's predecessor."

jacobinmag.com

We Have New Evidence of Saudi Involvement in 9/11, and Barely Anyone Cares

The FBI has quietly revealed further evidence of Saudi government complicity in the September 11 attacks — and nothing's happened.

2022 mar. 26

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Maria Dubovikova@politblogme

mar. 27

18+ (21+) Ukrainian soldiers shoot Russian prisoners of war in the legs and afterwards give them a severe beating. At the beginning of the video, there are Russian POWs lying on the ground with bullet wounds in their legs, some of them have got leg bones broken. #WarCrimes

Ikusi bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1507975823290216448

Erakutsi haria

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Maria Dubovikova@politblogme

mar. 27

It might give the impression that the Russian military were captured after having been wounded. But that's not the case. At the end of the video, we can see Ukrainian soldiers shooting all the newly arrived prisoners through their legs. #WarCrimes

Ikusi bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1507975846384082945

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Maria Dubovikova@politblogme

mar. 27

Many of them are dying from shock due to the pain right on camera. And all of this is being filmed by Ukrainian soldiers themselves.

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Michael Savage@ASavageNation

<u>5 h</u>

michaelsavage.com

Ukrainian soldiers shoot Russian prisoners of war in the legs and afterwards give them a severe...

<u>— Twitter Maria Dubovikova, @politblogme Ukrainian soldiers shoot Russian prisoners of war in the legs and afterwards give them a [READ MORE]</u>

000000

Max Blumenthal@MaxBlumenthal

10 h

This footage of Ukrainian soldiers shooting Russian POWs will get about as much attention from Western media as the video of US-backed White Helmets participating in Al Qaeda executions of Syrians who violated theocratic law. We only support the democrats! https://files.catbox.moe/juxmpi.mp4

Erakutsi haria

000000

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

<u>10 h</u>

Apparently, only more cash can prevent you from shooting POWs in the knees.

Txioa aipatu

Wilson Dizard@willdizard

23 h

This is a dangerous trend that could be stopped with more cash to build facilities for these captured soldiers, something few expected necessary a the war's start. Ukraine promising and delivering on humane treatment for POWs will encourage more Russians to surrender. twitter.com/LostWeapons/st...

Erakutsi haria

000000

Robert Barnes@barnes law

<u>13 h</u>

Undisputed evidence of war crimes in <u>#UkraineRussianWar</u> but the perpetrators are the Ukrainian army units torturing POWs.

000000

Clint Ehrlich@ClintEhrlich

12 h

A month ago, people laughed when I warned that Ukrainian forces were torturing Russian POWs. Today, we've all seen the videos. Yet another "conspiracy theory" that turned out to be a cold, hard fact. Txioa aipatu

Clint Ehrlich@ClintEhrlich

ots. 27

I am seeing more highly convincing footage of war crimes (torture) against Russian POWs. So far, these videos have not been broadcast on Russian state television. If they are, they could easily be used to justify "taking the gloves off." Scary to think about.

Erakutsi haria

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Pedro L. Gonzalez@emeriticus

<u>7 h</u>

Ukrainians are shooting Russian POWs as Republicans and Democrats cheer them on and insist that you either support this or you're against America. But the real American position is that we should have nothing to do with this war.





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Real Progressives@RealProgressUS

mar. 25

"It's hard to fathom the death of more than half a million children, and the refractory misery, for so many families, contained in that one statistic. Yet that was a 'price' Albright was willing to extract from ordinary people in that poor country."

jacobinmag.com

Madeleine Albright Was a Killer

Madeleine Albright has died at 84. She was a pioneering imperialist who passionately advocated greater use of deadly violence in pursuit of a US-dominated post–Cold War global order — and killed...

000000

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

<u>2 h</u>

Amazing stuff now emanating from Germany. Apparently, the honorable course for Germany is to return to the paranoid, pathological Russophobia that led the country twice to catastrophe in the 20th century.



politico.eu

Putin's useful German idiots

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a repudiation of a whole generation of German politicians from across the spectrum.

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Russians With Attitude@RWApodcast

<u>1 h</u>

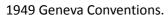
The downplaying & defense of Ukrainian radicalism by Western media & "intellectuals" really can't be surprising to anyone who remembers US think tanks talking about "moderate Jihadis" in Syria

000000

Clint Ehrlich@ClintEhrlich

<u>11 h</u>

The Ukrainian military is violating the Geneva Conventions. They're using civilian DHL trucks to attack Russian forces. That is textbook "perfidy" – prohibited by Article 37 of First Protocol Additional to the





Txioa aipatu

Russians With Attitude@RWApodcast

15 h

Ukrainian mortar team driving around in a DHL truck. The Ukrainian soldier explains that they were given six of those trucks for free by the company

Bideoa: https://twitter.com/i/status/1508165849382887432

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The Sirius Report@thesiriusreport

5 h

We have known since the Ukraine war started about insane savages committing war crimes against Russian POWs. Now it is irrefutable. The same insane savages committing war crimes in Donbass for 8 years which we discussed repeatedly during that time.

000000

Irakurri edo/eta ikusi al duzue goian aipatzen den guztiaz ezer euskal komunikabide libre, aske, demokratiko, objektibo, aurrerakoi eta abar luzeetan?

Bai?

Hau dunk hau!

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Ukraina/Errusia/AEB/NATO (Jolas bukatua. Falta dena garbiketa lana da) (3)

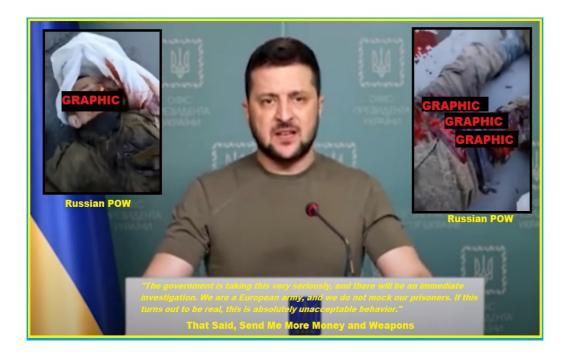
Game over. What's left is mop-up

Zelenskyy Worried About Western Financial Support After Video Surfaces Showing Ukraine Military
Torturing Russian POW's

March 27, 2022

(Zelenskyy Worried About Western Financial Support After Video Surfaces Showing Ukraine Military Torturing Russian POW's - The Last Refuge (theconservativetreehouse.com)

Two weeks ago, the United States government, State Dept., CIA and their allies in Big Tech, made a public announcement {Go Deep} that stated violence against Russians would be officially sanctioned by Facebook, Instagram and Google. In essence, Big Tech said it was now okay for Russians to be targeted on social media. Today, video footage is leaked showing graphic torture of Russian POW's by Ukraine military units.



BACKGROUND – The purpose of the shift in Big Tech 'terms and conditions' for the promotion of violence, was seemingly to enhance the western propaganda campaign. Elevating Ukraine's victim status in the minds of the ordinary citizens, while supporting the negative promotional campaign against Russia and Vladimir Putin was part of the design. The transparent motive of the shift was obvious to those who follow the activity of U.S. intelligence and State Dept.

Deep weeds political followers will remember the first collaboration between Facebook and DoS/CIA using this approach took place in Egypt and Libya at the beginning of the 2010 U.S. Obama-inspired Islamist Spring. A more refined 2022 version was just recently deployed against Russia. The tech control agents needed to parse the nuance carefully to allow targeted and approved violence to be narrowly focused.

Soon after Big Tech made their announcement {via Reuters}, the DoS/CIA and NATO announced they would be providing western military hardware to the Azov battalion in Ukraine – essentially the Ukrainian military's openly Nazi division. Images soon surfaced showing U.S. military "advisors" training Ukrainian ultranationalist Nazi units (Azov regiment) how to use the U.S. provided FGM-148 javelin missiles.



A few days after those reports surfaced, Russia bombed the Western Ukraine NATO training facilities

near Lviv housing over 1,000 foreign mercenaries: contract soldiers from western countries {LINK}.

However, as the narrative from the media propaganda machine continues to frame the Ukraine military as 'freedom fighters', they are now faced with videos surfacing showing Ukraine military regulars torturing Russian prisoners of war (POW's).

This is problematic for both NATO and Ukraine, as they must protect the image of the Ukraine military in order to maintain public support and funding.

The videos of the torture are graphic and very disturbing to watch {Severely Restricted Video 1 Example Here}, and I would not recommend watching them if you are not comfortable seeing men get shot, brutalized and beaten. {Severely Restricted Video 2 Example Here} They are graphic, bloody and violent. However, the torture itself, while censored for political need, aligns with the official NATO and Big Tech position that advocacy for violence against Russians is sanctioned.

The <u>first video</u> shows Russian soldiers with canvas bags placed on their heads and then beaten in the face with rifle butts. The prisoners are shot in the kneecaps and genitals, and they are left on the ground to bleed to death. Several vans then arrive at the Ukraine military compound in Kharkiv (roughly 20 miles from the Russian border), and as each POW is removed from the van they are shot in the knees.

A <u>second video</u> shows Russian POW's lying face down in a paved courtyard, or compound, and then being shot in the knees from the rear.

Apparently, one of the videos contains Russian soldiers who were part of a reconnaissance mission in the region and were captured. The Ukraine military gleefully torture the captives and record their endeavors for posterity. It was the Ukraine military units bragging about the torture that exposed their brutal behavior. All of the scenes are gruesome in the extreme.

The State Department has a problem with these video's surfacing. Who does the State Dept turn to? CNN

(<u>VIA CNN</u>) – Video has surfaced showing what appear to be Ukrainian soldiers shooting men who are apparently Russian prisoners in the knees during an operation in the Kharkiv region.

On the almost six-minute-long video, the Ukrainian soldiers are heard saying they have captured a Russian reconnaissance group operating from Olkhovka, a settlement in Kharkiv roughly 20 miles from the Russian border.



Asked about the video, a senior presidential advisor, Oleksiy Arestovych, said in an interview posted on YouTube Sunday: "The government is taking this very seriously, and there will be an immediate investigation. We are a European army, and we do not mock our prisoners. If this turns out to be real,

this is absolutely unacceptable behavior."

In a separate briefing, Arestovych said, "We treat prisoners in accordance with the Geneva Convention, whatever your personal emotional motives."

CNN has reached out to the Ukrainian Defense Ministry for comment. In response, the ministry sent CNN a statement from the Armed Forces chief, Valerii Zaluzhnyi. The statement did not refer directly to the incident, but said, "In order to discredit Ukraine's defense forces, the enemy films and distributes staged videos showing inhuman treatment by alleged 'Ukrainian soldiers' of 'Russian prisoners.'

"I emphasize that servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other legitimate military formations strictly adhere to the norms of international humanitarian law," Zaluzhnyi said. "I urge you to take into account the realities of informational and psychological warfare and trust only official sources."

It's unclear which Ukrainian unit may have been involved. The soldiers speak in a mixture of Ukrainian and Russian with Ukrainian accents.

The video comes as Ukrainian forces make gains east and south of Kharkiv. CNN geolocated and verified a long video uploaded on a Telegram Saturday showing a successful assault by Ukrainian troops of the Azov Battalion, in which they took a number of Russian prisoners in a rapid assault on Olkhovka, also known as Vilkhivka.

Some of the prisoners were stripped and blindfolded.

That video was posted by Konstantin Nemichev, a Kharkiv regional official who took part in the attack on Olkhovka. He told CNN he was not associated with the footage that emerged showing Ukrainian troops kneecapping Russian prisoners. (<u>read more</u>)



Keep in mind, U.S. taxpayers are giving these Ukraine military terrorists more than \$15 billion⁶ in direct financing to conduct their torture activities.

⁶ Amerikar bilioi bat = mila milioi europar.

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Falta dena garbiketa lana da, besterik ez!

Prentsa ofizialetik kanpo

Mike Norman@mikenorman

20 h

Nuclear War with Russia? 'A Wall of Fire that Encompasses Everything Around Us at the Temperature of the Center of the Sun.' https://scheerpost.com/2022/03/25/ted-postol-what-you-really-need-to-know-about-the-threat-of-nuclear-war/ via @Robert_Scheer

scheerpost.com

Ted Postol: What You Really Need to Know About the Threat of Nuclear War

On this week's "Scheer Intelligence," nuclear weapons specialist Ted Postol joins Robert Scheer to discuss how the Ukraine crisis could lead the world past the point of no return.

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Mike Norman@mikenorman

Population Boom https://scheerpost.com/2022/03/25/population-boom/ via @Robert_Scheer

scheerpost.com

Population Boom

"Population Boom," a new original cartoon by the inimitable Mr. Fish, ponders a past that might've prevented the perpetuation of a future that we loathe to see ourselves possibly facing.

2022 mar. 28

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Mike Norman@mikenorman

<u>20 h</u>

Manchin Wants \$1 Trillion⁷ Tax Increase

atr.org

Manchin Wants \$1 Trillion Tax Increase - Americans for Tax Reform

⁷ Amerikar trilioi bat = europar bilioi bat.

Tax hike violates Manchin promise to WV voters: "I can't look the people in West Virginia in the eye and ask them to pay a penny more

000000

Mike Norman@mikenorman

<u>20 h</u>

Hundreds march in Ukraine in annual tribute to Nazi collaborator https://timesofisrael.com/hundreds-march-in-ukraine-in-annual-tribute-to-nazi-collaborator/ via @timesofisrael

timesofisrael.com

<u>Hundreds march in Ukraine in annual tribute to Nazi collaborator</u>

<u>Stepan Bandera led the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, which fought alongside Nazi Germany during the Second World War, killed thousa</u>

000000

Mike Norman@mikenorman

<u>18 h</u>

Poland does this, NATO gets involved.

Txioa aipatu

Samuel Ramani@SamRamani2

19 h

Russian MP Maria Butina accused Poland of trying to annex Kaliningrad

000000

Mike Norman@mikenorman

<u>17 h</u>

There are those in Washington, maybe even the current Administration, and certainly within the defense establishment, who think we can "win" a nuclear war. There is only one outcome in nuclear war, and that is, WE ARE ALL DEAD.

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Michael Savage@ASavageNation

<u>14 h</u>

michaelsavage.com

Ukraine promises 'immediate investigation' after videos of soldiers shooting Russian prisoners ★...

Goodwordnews.com A video has surfaced showing what appears to be Ukrainian soldiers shooting men who are apparently Russian prisoners in [READ MORE]

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George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

12 h

Yup, questions were raised. https://nytimes.com/live/2022/03/28/world/ukraine-russia-war

 A video shared online Sunday and analyzed by The Times shows soldiers who are likely Ukrainian beating and shooting prisoners from the Russian military. The footage shows five of the prisoners tied up and lying on the ground. Three other captives are shot in their legs and fall to the ground. The incident raised questions about whether the Geneva Conventions, which set out the rules for the humane treatment of prisoners of war, had been violated.

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13 h

Not unlike the longterm radiation effects of Hiroshima+Nagasaki, the NATO bombing of the former Yugoslavia with depleted uranium has strong links to Serbia having the highest cancer rates in Europe over the past two decades.

https://thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanonc/PIIS1470-2045(21)00397-1.pdf https://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/P

♠ thelancet.com



NEWS | VOLUME 22, ISSUE 8, P1064, AUGUST 01, 2021

Serbia faces bleak cancer situation

Manjulika Das
Published: July 08, 2021 •

DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(21)00397-1 •

Check for updates

PlumX Metrics

Serbia has a substantial burden of cancer deaths, which might be a consequence of the depleted uranium bombs used by NATO in 1999 during air strikes, according to media reports.

♠ ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

damaging effects of economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations from 1992 to 1995, a 78-day bombing campaign by NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) in 1999, the collapse of the economy, decline of the living standard of the population, degradation of health services (with a lack of drugs and other medical materials), democratic changes in social and political circumstances in 2000, and the global financial crisis in 2007. With

I'm curious: how do the EU bureaucrats think they're going to replace Russian gas? Will it fall out the sky? Germany does not have one single LNG terminal. Not one. 40% of EU gas comes from Russia. If they don't pay up in 3 days, Russia turns it off, the economy will go to hell.

2022 mar. 29

0000000

Carlos Martinez@agent of change

20 h

Ungrateful Africans! We colonise you for hundreds of years and this is the thanks we get?!



Cold war echoes as African leaders resist criticising Putin's war

Many remember Moscow's support for liberation from colonial rule, and a strong anti-imperialist feeling remains

Mon 28 Mar 2022 08.12 BST

Support from many African leaders and governments for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine - or at least reluctance to condemn it - has dismayed western officials.

The ruling African National Congress party in South Africa has doubled down on its refusal to criticise Russia, saying it hopes to remain neutral and encourage dialogue.

Others on the continent have followed a similar line, calling for peace but blaming Nato's eastward expansion for the war, complaining of western "double standards" and resisting all calls to criticise Russia.

000000

@tobararbulu # mmt@tobararbulu

<u>1 h</u>

Chairman Xi Just Made a Big Move, China Announces They Will Keep Purchasing Crude Oil and Gas From Russia

<u>Theconservativetreehouse.com</u>

<u>Chairman Xi Just Made a Big Move, China Announces They Will Keep Purchasing Crude Oil and Gas From...</u>

Joe Biden said the western alliance would target any country that violated the sanctions against Russia. Specifically, after a lengthy telephone call with Chinese Chairman Xi Jinping on March 18th:...

2022 mar. 29

George Szamuely@GeorgeSzamuely

6 h

Yatsenyuk became prime minister and he went on German TV to remind Germans about the Soviet "invasion" of Germany in 1945. https://tass.com/world/774384

This Tweet links to a Russia state-affiliated media website. Lortu informazio gehiago

Txioa aipatu



6 h

Turchinov was an acting President during the 2014 Maidan in Ukraine. Some nicknamed him the Bloody Pastor for initiating the war in Donbass. This is what he wrote about Russians in 2018 in a country where many are Russian or Russian-speaking. https://turchynov.com/blog/details/k

♠ turchynov-com.translate.goog



This terrible mixture of Horde cruelty, taiga boorishness and centuries-old slavish anger created the phenomenon of the Russian people. He is dangerous and destructive, prone to aggression (senseless and merciless). The totalitarian form of statehood for him is a necessary system of containment and taming. The war has become for the Russians a form of self-realization, when they don't hold back, when they can show their insides.

000000

Prentsa eta manipulazioa

Russia-Ukraine: Western media are acting as cheerleaders for war

(https://www.middleeasteye.net/opinion/russia-ukraine-war-western-media-cheerleaders)
Jonathan Cook

4 March 2022

Journalists are cheering on the arming of militias and civilians making improvised explosives – acts they usually treat as terrorism

"It is hard to remember in all the media agitation over Ukraine that this sympathetic coverage flies in the face of its reporting conventions"

It is simply astonishing how <u>many</u> western journalists, including normally <u>cautious BBC reporters</u>, are shamelessly <u>fawning over</u> young women building Molotov cocktails on the streets of Ukrainian cities like Kyiv.

Western journalists' difficulty containing their identification with, and support for, Ukraine's civilian 'resistance' must be maddening to Palestinians in tiny Gaza

It's suddenly sexy to make improvised explosives – at least, if the media consider you white, European and "civilised".

That might surprise other, more established resistance movements, especially in the Middle East. They have invariably found themselves tarred as terrorists for doing much the same.

Western journalists' difficulty containing their identification with, and support for, Ukraine's civilian "resistance" must be maddening to Palestinians in tiny Gaza, for example, who have been <u>locked into a metal cage by an Israeli military occupier for decades.</u>

Palestinians in Gaza make their own Molotov cocktails. But because they can't get close to the Israeli army, they have to pack them into <u>balloons</u> that drift over the steel barrier surrounding Gaza and into Israel, sometimes setting fire to fields.

No one from the BBC has celebrated these "<u>incendiary balloons</u>" as a small act of resistance. They are reflexively blamed on Gaza's governing group Hamas, the political wing of which was recently designated <u>a terror organisation</u> by the British government.

Double standards

Palestinians in Gaza have also suffered <u>a trade blockade by Israel for the past 15 years</u>, one designed to put them on a <u>"starvation diet"</u>. Protesters, including women, children and people in wheelchairs, have regularly turned out to throw a stone in the direction of distant Israeli snipers, hidden behind fortifications, as a symbolic way to demand their freedom. These protesters have often been <u>shot by the Israeli army</u> in response.

Russia-Ukraine war: How social media became a battleground

The western media <u>offer</u> occasional anguish at the lives lost or the legs amputated of those targeted by the snipers. But <u>none</u> of them cheerlead this Palestinian "resistance" as they do the Ukrainian one. More usually, the protesters are <u>treated</u> as dupes or provocateurs of Hamas.

Gaza, unlike Ukraine, does not have an army, and its fighters, unlike Ukraine's, are not being armed by the West.

The Guardian newspaper even <u>censored</u> its cartoonist Steve Bell when he sought to depict one of the victims of Israel's snipers, a nurse, <u>Razan al-Najjar</u>, who had been trying to help the wounded. The paper implied that <u>the cartoon</u> – of Britain's then prime minister, Theresa May, welcoming her Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, to London, with al-Najjar a sacrificial victim behind them in the fireplace – was antisemitic.

Assuming the media has in the past been reluctant to encourage ordinary people to confront well-armed soldiers – so as to avoid civilian casualties – then why has that policy suddenly been ditched in Ukraine?

The double standards are glaring and everywhere. It is impossible to claim that the journalists doing this are ignorant of reporting conventions elsewhere. They are mostly veterans of Middle East war zones, well used to covering Gaza, Baghdad, Nablus, Aleppo and Tripoli.

Fuelling the fire

Britain and other European states have chosen to fuel the fires of resistance in Ukraine by <u>sending it</u> <u>weapons</u> that can only lead to greater loss of life, especially of civilians caught in the crossfire. One might have expected the British media to examine the ethical implications of such a policy, and the hypocrisy. But not a bit of it.

The double standards are glaring and everywhere. It is impossible to claim that the journalists doing this are ignorant of reporting conventions elsewhere

In fact, much of the media have not only been <u>acting as lobbyists</u> for more weapons to be sent to the Ukrainian army, they have <u>whipped up support for civilians in the UK to get more involved</u> in the fighting.

That has been the case even after No 10 <u>distanced</u> itself from comments by Liz Truss, the foreign secretary, that Britons should be encouraged to volunteer for Ukraine's so-called "<u>international legions</u>," supposedly to defend Europe.

Her position was in conflict with usual government practice, which has treated those heading off to fight in war zones in the Middle East as terrorists. <u>Shamima Begum</u>, who went to Syria aged 15, has been stripped of her British citizenship and denied the right to return for doing what Truss has proposed in Ukraine.

Nonetheless, that did not dissuade the <u>BBC from travelling to Essex to meet "Wozza,"</u> a supplier of surplus British army kit he has been selling cheaply to Ukrainians in Britain so they can head off to the battlefront. Wozza was shown tearing off Union Jack insignia from uniforms so Ukrainian militiamen could use them.

Compare that with the treatment of an entirely peaceful form of resistance by westerners in solidarity with the Palestinians, the international Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment (BDS) movement. It has been <u>treated</u> as barely better than terrorism, with <u>bans on support for BDS</u> across <u>Europe</u> and the US.

Compromised 'impartiality'

It is hard to remember in all the media agitation over Ukraine that this sympathetic coverage flies in the face of its reporting conventions. It is inconceivable, of course, that Britain would ever send arms to help, for example, Gaza liberate itself.

We need to stop with our racist view of the world, in which our suffering matters and the suffering of others doesn't

For that reason, the media will never have the opportunity to exercise their vocal chords in outrage at such a development.

In fact, the western media more typically <u>echo western government</u> opposition to any support for Gaza, even construction materials like cement to rebuild the enclave after one of Israel's intermittent wrecking sprees. That is because reporters treat uncritically <u>Israeli claims</u> that humanitarian aid will be repurposed by Hamas and bolster "terrorism".

Back in 2010, for example, a BBC *Panorama* programme <u>failed</u> to mention that an Israeli naval attack on a humanitarian aid convoy to besieged Gaza was conducted illegally in international waters. Nine activists trying to deliver aid items like medicine to Gaza aboard the Mavi Marmara ship were killed by Israeli commandoes, but the interviews with these masked men were <u>largely uncritical</u>. There was

very little sympathy from the BBC for that act of resistance against a brutal occupier.

A year earlier, the BBC <u>broke with tradition and refused</u> to broadcast a long-established aid appeal because on this occasion it was to provide food and shelter to Gaza, following an Israeli assault that destroyed swaths of the enclave. The BBC <u>justified</u> the decision on the grounds that it would compromise its "impartiality" – something it seems entirely unconcerned about in Ukraine.

The BBC had not responded to questions about these inconsistencies by the time of publication.

Fog of war

The battlefield is well known for becoming quickly enveloped in the fog of war. That is one reason why inexperienced journalists are cautioned by their editors to wait for evidence and to be alert to propaganda. In practice, however, one can assess where the media's sympathies lie – concealed behind flimsy claims of objectivity – by noting when and for whose benefit these caution rules are abandoned, and which side's narratives are accepted quickly and uncritically.

In the Middle East, it is clear that US, European and Israeli claims are all too readily amplified, even when their veracity is in doubt.

Such media-fuelled lies have been manifold. That Israel urged the Palestinians it <u>expelled</u> in 1948 to return home. That Saddam Hussein's troops <u>ripped babies</u> from incubators in Kuwait, and that the Iraqi leader <u>colluded</u> with his arch-enemy, al-Qaeda, in the 9/11 attacks. That <u>Muammar Gadaffi</u>'s soldiers in Libya <u>took Viagra</u> to rape civilians in Benghazi. That <u>Russia paid bounties</u> to the Taliban to kill US soldiers in Afghanistan.

These deceptions and fabrications grabbed headlines when they were useful as propaganda, only to be quietly withdrawn much later on.

In the case of Ukraine, a similar pattern appears to be emerging. There were widespread, inciteful and entirely fictitious reports in the western media of Russian troops butchering a contingent of 13 Ukrainian soldiers on Snake Island, in the Black Sea. A fake audio tape was released of the Ukrainians supposedly cursing the Russian invaders. Ukraine's government <u>promised</u> each of them a Hero of Ukraine award.

But in fact, it was Russian media reports that were true. There were 82 Ukrainian soldiers and they had surrendered. All were alive and well. In another example, a clip from a video game was widely promoted as a heroic lone Ukrainian fighter pilot, dubbed the Ghost of Kyiv, shooting down Russian planes and helicopters.

Misinformation has been shared even more aggressively on western social media accounts, and most of it is designed to evoke sympathy for Ukraine and <u>hostility to Russia</u>.

Softening-up operation

But what we are seeing is more than just an appetite in the media for evidence-free stories and falsehoods so long as they are directed against Russia. And it is about more than the media's sympathy for Ukrainian "resistance" denied other groups battling their oppressors, when those oppressors are the West and its allies.

The problem for western audiences is not their exposure to Russian state propaganda. It is their constant exposure to relentless western state propaganda

The media is chock full of commentators far more rabidly tribal than even western governments and military generals. The media chorus for "more war" seems to be serving as an ideological softening-up operation, clearing the path for governments as they prepare for more extreme propaganda and undemocratic measures.

Along with many others, Mail on Sunday commentator Dan Hodges has been <u>calling for a no-fly zone</u> over Ukraine that even Boris Johnson has <u>rejected</u> for very obvious reasons. It would lead Europe into

a direct confrontation with the Russian airforce and risk confrontation with a nuclear power.

Nonetheless, Hodges has <u>described</u> any rejection of this idea as "an act of appeasement no different to our appeasement of Hitler in 1938". Russia's invasion came after nearly a decade of goading by the US using Nato as cover to forge ever tighter military relations with its neighbour.

Rightly or wrongly, Moscow <u>interpreted</u> Nato's behaviour as an aggressive move by the US and its allies into its "sphere of influence". The idea that no concession could, and can, be made to Russia – that the only "moral choice," as Hodges calls it, is risking a potential nuclear war – should be understood as the belligerent provocation it clearly is.

NBC News' chief foreign correspondent, Richard Engel, tweeted out what he saw as a "risk calculation" and "moral dilemma": should the West bomb a convoy of Russian tanks on their way towards Kyiv? Apparently concerned by current inaction, he asked: "Does the West watch in silence as it rolls?"

Utter hypocrisy

Condeleeza Rice, an architect of the criminal invasion of Iraq, has not been challenged by the media over her <u>utter hypocrisy</u> in agreeing that "When you invade a sovereign nation, that is a war crime." If that is the case – and international law says it is – then Rice herself should be on trial at the Hague.

Or what about the media's horror this week at the shelling of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second city, where "dozens" were reported killed? Compare that to the media's breathless excitement over the "Shock and Awe" bombing campaign that likely killed thousands in the opening hours of the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

What about the media's mostly <u>complicit silence</u> over many years of <u>Saudi bombing</u> - <u>using British</u> planes and <u>bombs</u> - <u>of civilians in Yemen</u>, leading to a barely imaginable humanitarian catastrophe there? Those in Yemen who resist the <u>Saudi horror</u> show are not heroes to our media, they are simply dismissed as puppets of Iran?

Veteran BBC journalist Jeremy Vine, meanwhile, <u>expressed</u> the view that <u>conscripted Russian soldiers</u> "deserve to die" when they put on a Russian army uniform. "That's life," he told a shocked caller to his show.

Did Vine think British and US troops - professional soldiers, unlike Russia's conscripts - also deserved to die when their armies illegally invaded Iraq? And if not, why not?

The racist undertones and overtones of much western coverage – with commentators and interviewees regularly stressing how Ukrainian refugees are "European," "civilised," "blond haired and blue eyed" - is hard to miss.

State propaganda

And in the midst of this rampant, often unhinged western war propaganda, much of its coming from the British state broadcaster, Europe has <u>banned Russia's state broadcaster RT</u> from the airwaves, while Silicon Valley <u>scrubs its presence</u> from the internet.

There is no doubt that RT generally promotes an editorial line largely sympathetic to Moscow's foreign policy goals, just as the BBC can invariably be relied on to promote an editorial line largely sympathetic to Britain's foreign policy goals.

The problem for western audiences is not their exposure to Russian state propaganda. It is their constant exposure to relentless western state propaganda.

If we seek peace – and there are few indications of that at the moment – then we need the western media held to account for its mindless jingoism, its exaggerations, its credulity, its double standards, and its deceptions. But who is going to act as a watchdog on the supposed watchdog of the Fourth Estate?

Right now, we need voices from Russia to understand what Putin thinks and wants, not what the BBC's "chief international correspondents" think he wants. We need information sources ready to quickly challenge both western and Russian "fake news".

And most of all we need to stop with our racist view of the world, in which we are always the Good Guys and they are always the Bad Guys, and in which our suffering matters and the suffering of others doesn't.

The views expressed in this article belong to the author and do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of Middle East Eye.

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Non daude euskal komunikabideetako albiste objektiboak?

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(Segituko du)