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Subject: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 21 Sep 2023 20:13:00 GMT

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What started out as a noble fight against a dastardly aggressor has turned into another fine mess Olly. The United States has co-opted many governments and regime's since WWII. Studies have listed over 64 covert and 6 overt regime changes since then.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_involvement\\_in\\_regime\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_involvement_in_regime_change)

Ukraine is the latest in that our State Dept. essentially did a carrot & stick with Ukraine to go up against an opponent far superior in strength and capability to thwart the misaligned dream of joining NATO to encircle Russia. A fantasy of our own neocon national security agencies. The result has been billions dollars and Euros of arms sent in a vain attempt to have Ukraine by proxy, fight the Russians and even maybe topple Vladimir Putin.

The Ukraine's are finished essentially. We couldn't even provide enough artillery shells for them. The dead and wounded are in the 100's of thousands. Such an unnecessary waste of human tragedy. And we antagonize China as our next target of a Crusades like war mongering project. <https://www.moonofalabama.org/2023/09/how-will-the-biden-administration-cope-with-its-loss-in-ukraine.html#more>

Our country is in the throws of a vexing dilemma of it's own making. And it uses the military industrial complex that Dwight Eisenhower warned about to try and carry out dubious national security perceptions. The rest of the world with the majority of population thinks otherwise now. That's a good thing.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 22 Sep 2023 23:28:50 GMT

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I hope Ukraine is victorious soon. I'm really upset to see what I consider to be more like a civil war than anything else. And it's not even a real civil war - Ukraine is already independent. It's just that there were lots of people in Russia, Ukraine and in the Crimean peninsula that share family ties and deep friendship bonds. Those have been severely tested and, in many cases, irreconcilably broken.

You may remember Alona from the 1990s. She and I have maintained a friendship and I also remain pretty close with her brother Alex, who is a soldier in Ukraine. Their family lives in Odessa, and I've been there several times.

I don't really consider the politics - I just side with the people I know there. I do what I can to help. Since I know them personally, I send a little money from time to time. Like I said, I don't think about the politics to consider whether money from our government is being well-spent. I just want the people I know to be safe.

Beyond that, I know that the novi russkiy and Putin have gone off their rocker. Ironically, the people of the former Soviet Union used to see the United States like a "spoiled fat cat" and imagined Americans as narcissistic entitled people, looking like the man on the monopoly game box.

To some extent, we have been entitled and we are lucky to have what we have. We forget that here in this country sometimes, and we probably have for over 50 years. So to some extent, that view of Americans is a little bit true. We can be a little bit entitled, and our politicians are probably not the best examples we could be proud of.

But Russia has way outdone us there. The narcissistic traits of Putin and the so-called oligarchs have pushed so far past human decency as to rank them more as sociopaths and psychopaths. They are as entitled as any human can get. So now the Russian people might want to get their own house in order before looking over here at us.

A little over 100 years ago, the tovarish (comrades) of the Bolshevik army assassinated their tsar and his family because they thought the royal family was out of touch. So for those living in Russia today, they might want to remember that little bit of history and to look at what they have now - which is an order of magnitude worse.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 23 Sep 2023 12:22:13 GMT

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I empathize with the Ukrainians, but they can't win this proxy war. You see, it was a diplomatic boondoggle from the get go. That is the machinations of our Pentagon diplomacy. It's a political FUBAR of the first degree. Like all of America's foray's in foreign meddling, coup's and wars. The tragic consequences are always the people, the human suffering the destruction and we dust our hands off and traipse off to another "encounter".

Ukraine I've read has had a turbulent history of conquests and occupations, but it's primary alignment has necessarily been the function of neutrality with it's sovereignty. The west has antagonized Russia since the fall of the Soviet state in the 90's. It has done so with NATO. After the cold war ended NATO expansion commenced. Against promises first to Gorbachev then Yeltsin to the contrary. Economist Jeffrey Sachs is a good reference to this as he having been placed in Russia as an advisor to the government for restructuring their economy then. Which none of his advise was taken over objections by our orthodox economic hierarchy. Another story.

Needless to say, a red line ended with Ukraine and NATO influence with Putin. As you say, their mutual history. Imagine Mexico being armed and aligned by the Chinese. As George Bush famously said, "This will not stand". What would this country do?

What this war has revealed though is NATO's weakness. Our bloated military industrial complex that can't supply even enough artillery and "uber" weapons that get destroyed like any other. And Russia's ability to dance around our foolish sanctions we illegally, (world court) dish out to nations.

As a side note, Venezuela. Who's population hurt by it are now at our border crossings. And Russia's economy that was suppose to be crippled has regained it's footing. Especially in military industrial production. The Ukraine's are outgunned and outnumbered by a large margin. And they have sustained terrible loss of life and wounded.

This war should end as soon as possible. But it won't due to the entrenchment of crippling notions of political gamesmanship. Such is our declining imperial empire as well. The only real entitlements of our country, go to the wealthy that pull the strings of the politics here.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 02:22:31 GMT

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Hi, interesting viewpoints. I generally won't get into this type of discussion, but this being a rather non-adversarial (ie friendly) site I will put a few thoughts on this topic. On others it is too likely to cause hard feelings and problems. That everything is all screwed up is a given. But it begs a few questions. First does anyone feel it is OK for one country to just take over another? And perhaps a caveat on that if so under what circumstances? A specific one is since the USSR once controlled some Baltic countries would be interested if they tried the same thing there? Should we interfere? If so, why? To protect our global influence, needed resources (from others)? What do we gain or lose if we get involved? The world is now a global economy whether we like it or not. We don't have to like or agree with everyone, but it is in our best interest not to piss someone off enough to cause the end of civilization. Indeed, life would be a lot better if we all got along. A pipe dream for sure. On sanctions I agree...they are largely ineffective. Saber rattling and threatening are equally useless. Since there are now several countries that have the ability to cause a nuclear war, the actual threat is not so strong as it once was. If started, the initiator will be as badly destroyed as the target(s). No one wins, a lose-lose affair. Now we have a mostly conventional fray that really no one wanted and it is unclear how to end it. A big complication is the overlap of the populations. The entire region has a mix of several cultures and trying to draw a line where one starts and another ends is really difficult. Worse, the geography of the region is no help separating one area from another. One thing I believe is that wars are waged by the leaders. The general population would like to just carry on their day to day lives. I place almost all of the blame on Putin for this war. I suspect he thought and was advised by some individuals that he could just take over the parts of Ukraine he wanted like what happened in Crimea. Bad call. Now the issue is how to (for him) save face and end it. I personally don't see any solution at this point.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 11:46:30 GMT

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All it would take is a call from Biden to Putin to get serious talks going and a cease fire. The Ukraine's will have to give up the eastern territory and Crimea that were essentially Russian in character. If the Russians were oriented by conquest of territory. They would and could march onward to Kiev. They've held a defensive line in those eastern territories and Crimea that are a

buffer. Crimea is strategic to Russia's national security. Something our country makes quite a bit over all the time. Remember a country called Iraq that we invaded over false pretense. The National security hand was played.

Most contrary evidence I've read and listened to of this affair. And isn't reported on by corporate news outlets other than regurgitating official news release, is that our State Department and diplomacy was pivotal in crafting this mess. Remember the Cuban missile crisis. The Armageddon clock was the closest, (yet?) to all out nuclear war. Because WE put missiles aimed at Russia in Turkey. We have had a long subversive and antagonistic history with countries that have been economically aligned with socialism and communism. Always as an existential threat. John F. Kennedy gave a great speech afterward towards the understanding and communication with countries in the world with divergent ideologies to ours. Meaning talk, listen, cooperate. That which is lacking in today's strident political posturing.

And we antagonize so with China now. They are the most successful economy the world has ever witnessed in such a short time period. A socialist country. Now an existential threat to our State Department. Our antagonism and dollar diplomacy has given rise to the BRICS coalition by the countries of the world that challenges our Super imperialism over the last 70 plus years.

I know I must seem perhaps, un American with my views. I don't believe in the phrase, America, love it or leave it. Our country is special. But I feel it's being led into ruination by self imposed denial and deceit. We are better than that.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 14:20:53 GMT

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I don't agree with that assessment, and please do remember - I'm coming from a position of knowing several Russians and Ukrainians. I've been there.

Ukraine has many citizens that are Russians or that have Russian roots and they still consider themselves to be Ukrainian and oppose the war. They feel betrayed. The Ukrainian population is a mix of Russians and Ukrainians, mostly Orthodox Catholics and Jews. Almost all of them consider themselves to be Russian and Ukrainian, or at least they did before the Putin war.

Crimea is somewhat independent of Russia and Ukraine. It has a long history of being that way. But it has been happily independent of Russia and a part of Ukraine since 1991. The Sevastopol port has not been Russian since then. Crimea was illegally annexed by Russia, which is a much different thing than independently deciding to join Russia. That is a fact.

I can tell you with a great deal of certainty - that comes from knowing people that came from all parts of Russia, Ukraine and Crimea - that this is not at all something anyone wanted except Putin and some - not all - of his novi russkiy cohorts. They are just ugly, greedy, power-hungry psychopaths.

Stop watching folks over here on the television. They are just talking heads, spouting

propaganda. Mostly, it's people that don't have a clue about what they are talking about. They just latch onto something they think is a story and blab on about it. Some people, though, apparently have gotten into bed with one or more on the novi ruskiy and they then have their own agendas. And some in the media talk about that.

But it isn't a political thing, certainly not one of empire-building from the West. If we wanted to do that, we could have done it at any time after 1991. I personally wondered why we didn't back then. Ukraine wanted to be part of the West, and actively strove for that. They would have been a great ally, especially back then when Turkey seemed to be having problems with radicalized religious zealots.

The problem is the novi ruskiy and their theft of oil from the Russian population. Back when the wall fell, most Russian people didn't understand capitalism. And by "Russian people" I mean Russians, Ukrainians, Moldovans, Crimeans, Uzbekistanis, Armenians, etc. I'm talking about everyone in every country that was once part of the Soviet Union. They were all given what was essentially stock in the companies they worked for. They were called vouchers. But most people didn't understand the significance of that.

Who knew? The black-market criminals of Russia, that's who. They knew how free-markets worked because they had been selling drugs and sex for years. They bought the vouchers for cheap because the people that had them didn't know their value. They were called novi ruskiy back then, and they're who people over here now call "the oligarchs."

So lots of Russian industries are owned by these thugs. Energy companies are probably the most lucrative. And that's where the problem lies. It's all about them.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine  
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 15:17:57 GMT  
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That is very much anecdotal coming from the populous. Governments have agenda's. All governments. What goes on in the halls and offices of Washington, Kiev, Moscow where ever is an amalgamation of ideology, special interests and conjecture. Sometimes for the public's benefit. Not often. If you read from educated professionals and journalists that do their just do to ferret out the fiction from reality. You'll get a much clearer picture of the way that geopolitical events transpire.

A little history of the former Soviet state after collapsing is that our government led a team of economist to essentially transform the former Soviet communist economy to our western neoliberal financialized kind. Known at the time as, "shock therapy". Needless to say the advent of the Russian oligarchy came into being as a result. That is finance capitalism. We have our own slew of oligarchs.

I don't take stock in corporate news sources. They are nothing more than journalistic sell outs.

This whole affair in Ukraine is nothing but political. From the get go. This war has been sold to the

public here in the US and Europe as a fight against pure aggression and dominance. Good vs evil. There is so much more to it than what is reported or will be reported from a perspective of agenda's of the states.

Submitted for approval, or not. Two very telling articles that reach deep into our flawed perceptions of NATO, and our diplomatic arm of the Pentagon.

<https://thefloutist.substack.com/p/ukraine-before-and-after>

<https://consortiumnews.com/2023/09/21/jeffrey-sachs-nato-expansion-ukraines-destruction/>

None of this applies to being a bleeding heart liberal or a hard ass conservative. It is about the realities of our world.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 16:13:31 GMT

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Dude, I'm telling you I was there in the 1990s when those bloggers didn't exist. Nobody in America - including our politicians - had any influence in that area. Nobody here cared. Not for better or worse, no harm no foul - just saying we weren't exerting influence there. I wish we had been. It seemed to me it would have made sense. And it would have been easier then too, 'cause the novi russki hadn't had time to exploit their stolen resources yet.

I remember hearing them brag in the 1990s that they lost more oil from inefficient wells than America produced. I heard that because a lot of my computer customers were oil businesses in Oklahoma and Texas and they hoped to sell completions equipment to Russia but couldn't deal with the novi russkiy 'cause nobody with any ethics (or sense) can deal with guys like that.

The Russians at that time were making oil wells without PBR technology, which is a process Americans invented in the early 1900s. It prevents waste and also makes the wells more clean, because there is an outer casing filled with brine (saltwater) and an inner tubing string that flows the oil. The tubing string can be replaced when the acids in the oil damage it. So since the Russians weren't doing that, the casings eroded and the oil seeped out into the earth. That's why they had so much waste, and there was mutual interest in improving Russian oil technologies.

But again, reasonable businesses couldn't work with novi russkiy so lots of deals fell flat. I saw lots of them, lots of attempts and lots of failures 'cause legitimate American businesses just couldn't take the risk of dealing with Russian mobsters. They hoped to be paid in oil - which would have worked nicely - but they were dealing with total thugs and it just couldn't be done.

Back then, America political interests were not interested in stepping in in any sort. It was all too small and too insignificant to be on our radar. That one fact alone should tell you that we weren't interested in empire-building. For right or wrong, we just weren't. I watched it for years. I was surprised, to tell the truth. After living my whole life in the "cold war," I would have thought we

would have stepped in and helped build those fledgling democracies. Seemed like the right thing to do.

But we didn't.

So that says everything. The fact that we're stepping in now is something else entirely. It's not America trying to build empires. If anything, there might be individuals here that have their hands in the "mobster cooking jar." But in any case, America isn't the bad guy here. The bad guys are novi russkiy and anyone slimy enough to deal with them. That's the problem here. Anyone that says otherwise is spreading propaganda, either intentionally to hide their inappropriate relationships with mobsters or unintentionally just to have a story to tell.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 18:10:48 GMT

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Well actually, we did have influence in post Soviet economic planning. The western Shock therapy mentioned. This is a historical fact. Sorry. I understand your personal influence having been to that country in that era. And from it I can understand some of what you're conveying as having merit. I guess we'll have to agree to disagree. But I trust the analysis of Jeffrey Sachs and others in an official economic advisory capacity who were there too during that period. The chosen pathway was with financial liberalism. Privatization, monopoly rent, selling off assets, debt. Entitling the few, at the expense of debt deflation for the many. Rather like our own economy now.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2022/03/22/1087654279/how-shock-therapy-created-russian-oligarchs-and-paved-the-path-for-putin>

I think most of the disinformation coming out of this conflict is from the vested interests of American and European Union have invested politically, monetarily and militarily in weapons in this debacle. The Ukraine offensive is stymied as it never had a chance without airpower. Probably why we haven't sent our expensive aircraft to be shot down or our jet powered tanks to be blown up. Still, it didn't have to occur. But the results are certainly real. As they always are from our foray's into other countries business. The list is long, but primary examples are Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan.

As Mr. Ritter in his analysis laments, we choose not to believe despite the evidence. That's been the way with individuals, and governments, forever.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 20:07:45 GMT

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The article linked in your previous post describes the Russian situation in the 1990s pretty well.

You might want to read that article again. It says exactly the same thing I've said here in this thread. It describes the *novi russkiy*, the attempts to privatize by vouchers and the beginnings of the problem that we see now.

We had very little to do with it. I wish we had done more to help the situation back then when it would have been more manageable.

There was one big event that happened back then where the West was involved. Well, not so much involved, more like made aware. When Ukraine agreed to release its Soviet era nuclear weapons in 1994, it did so with an agreement from Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States to provide Ukraine with security assurances in connection with its willingness to sign a non-proliferation treaty as a non-nuclear weapon state. The four parties signed the agreement at that time. But that's about all that happened back then. Nothing concrete was put in place to set actionable consequences for that agreement.

But other than that, there really was almost nothing happening. If there had been large-scale Western influence in the 1990s, it would have been visible. Western influence is only visible now because it's happening now. It wasn't visible in the 1990s because there wasn't anything to see back then.

What you could see back in the 1990s was attempts at influence from darker forces in Russia. Sometimes, the Ukrainian president or a mayor of a large city would be poisoned. This was common if a pro-Western official was elected. So even fairly early on, this kind of stuff was happening. It was sort of like what we saw in Chechnya, but bigger.

The West did nothing about it until very recently. Maybe that's 'cause we didn't need to do anything, I don't know. But still, there were no big pushes to bring Ukraine into NATO or anything like that. There was no economic planning or financial infusions of some sort from the West, other than individual efforts from private businessmen. I personally wish there had been but could clearly see that there was not. Not until recently.

Honestly, I am kind of proud that the United States and Britain as well as other European nations have stepped up to the plate to honor that non-proliferation agreement. I don't think we had really done much 'til now, but now that Putin has stepped off the deep end, I'm glad he's getting push-back from us and the rest of the world.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 25 Sep 2023 22:53:35 GMT

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Well I don't know if you were involved with high level governmental planning or advice back then. But if not. How would you see it? I mean, this was, is administrative high level planning. This isn't something the public see's in this country. The Russian government itself sought out western



economic advice then. What probably was visible was how traumatic it was for the public to go from government subsidized housing and other social support from the Soviet era to the crunch of western influenced financialized privatizing. People having a hard time coping with this new economy. That has been documented. But hey, McDonalds restaurants came into being there.

As far as the nuclear INF treaty with Russia. The US withdrew from it in 2019.

The US has been arming and making inroads with Ukraine since 2014.

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-security-cooperation-with-ukraine/#:~:text=Since%202014%2C%20the%20United%20States,and%20improve%20interoperability%20with%20NATO.>

And encouraging via our State Department in the regime change of Viktor Yanukovich keeping Ukraine neutral towards a pro western, pro NATO oriented successor.

NATO is the singular most largest reason for this war occurring. And now it's seen as a paper tiger with the ramifications of what this tragic unnecessary conflict has brought forth. It's shameful. I guess next on to Taiwan in our Crusades quest in Democracy vs Autocracy. Our country just can't get enough war mongering to satisfy it's desires.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2023 00:16:52 GMT

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I understand what you're saying and I have no doubt you have investigated this very thoroughly. You have a curious mind and I'm sure you have studied this matter.

But I've studied it too. I don't care about the credentials of an author or a source if I think they're gaslighting me. In fact, throwing credentials around is one of the best tools of a gaslighter. I don't need to try to understand their motives - if what is being said doesn't square with observable events, I disregard them.

Since I know people in and from Ukraine, Moldova and Crimea, I'm interested, and so I stay informed. And sometimes I see things on TV and on the internet that don't square with what I've observed. So if I see things like that, I disregard them.

What I know is there was little apparent Western interest in Ukraine in the 1990s and there's a ton of it right now. That's obvious. There's a war going on and we're sending lots of support to Ukraine. We didn't support them like this in the 1990s.

It's not like the players changed, at least not since 1999. Putin and the novi russkiy have become more emboldened in the last decade, that's really all that's different.

And that's why I'm saying what I'm saying. I do not think America or any NATO nation is or was using Ukraine as a puppet. If we were, we could have started that long ago. It would have been easier then, when the newly-independent countries were forming.

I didn't see anything like that happening in the 1990s. We just let 'em be. And maybe that was

the right thing to do.

But after Russia invaded Ukraine last year, we jumped to their aid and I'm glad. In hindsight, I wish we had done that in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea. Or maybe even before that, I might have liked to see us engage Russia in the 1990s when they were at war with Chechnya. Back then, I thought Russia was protecting its economic resources since Chechnya fought for its independence. Now I think I was wrong and that Russia should have allowed Chechnya to have its independence without a fight.

In any case, we didn't involve ourselves in any of those conflicts. I'm glad America decided enough is enough and we've assisted Ukraine.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 26 Sep 2023 12:45:16 GMT

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Yeah Wayne, I really didn't understand dwelling on that period of time from you. Learning of your connection there. I don't know really under what auspices or how long. But, other than the western economic advisory mission to Russia's new economic standing. There wasn't really any American presence in that part of the world. The cold war was over. We won! But diplomatically in Europe the NATO advancement begins. This isn't gaslighting from a source like Jeffrey Sachs. This is what transpired. And when he says that assurances to Gorbachev, then Yeltsin that NATO would not expand. He's telling the truth. There is documentation to back it up. In good faith Russia dissolved the Warsaw Pact because of those assurances. But slowly, diplomatically, all the Baltic countries aligned. This was the slow encroachment of a military armament in countries bordering Russia. With missiles aimed at Russia. The cold war was over but nonetheless, it wasn't.

Ukraine whose name historically itself means "borderland". Russia has had a long history with it. The fact that our government took advantage of Ukraine's burgeoning desire to align with Europe, then NATO with a subversive regime color revolution in 2014 was the beginning of what is now this terrible conflict. The Minsk agreements both failed to end fighting in eastern Ukraine due to American arming of Ukraine.

Now we're doing that in Taiwan. It's called in popular diplomatic parlance, turning a country into a porcupine. That is our long history of subversive and clandestine meddling in other countries affairs. That is what has been the impetus of the formation of the BRICS initiative. Our meddling and our sanctioning and our war mongering.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2023 17:10:29 GMT

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I was going to leave this thread lay, since I think we came to a good place to let it rest. But I did

want to say one more thing, to clarify myself on the comments I made about gaslighting.

I am generally purposely non-specific about my thoughts and opinions on political matters and about the policies and laws of the United States for a variety of reasons. But I don't have any problems talking about the comments I've heard from private individuals and especially those in the media or certain so-called "influencers."

I've seen folks spinning the facts to a point that they are actually not facts anymore. These are textbook cases of gaslighting. They describe a version of "reality" that has distortions. It's most effective when there are plenty of true and demonstrable facts mixed in with the distortions, so maybe the audience doesn't notice the distortions and simply believes them. Even better if they cannot check the facts, or if it's inconvenient enough that they won't.

Not everyone does this, of course, and I've seen plenty of sources that are spot-on, or perhaps I should say they relay the situation in a way that makes sense and that fits with what I have observed over the years.

I don't intend to name those I've caught spinning the facts or outright lying. But I will say what makes me most sad is some of the gaslighters are actually people I agree with in many other respects. Sad to see those because that makes me check them off the list of reliable sources.

Let me give you one example, one of many. I won't get into the details too much and instead leave that to the reader to research if they are so inclined.

Look at the situation with the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. Most people in Ukraine are Orthodox or Jews. There are also some Moslems and other religions. Some are atheist or agnostic because of the Soviet years, but frankly, most people are not. Most are Orthodox Christian.

There's a problem there though. There's a schism that has formed in the church. In the not-so-distant past, I could have referred to the Eastern Orthodox or Russian Orthodox church and considered it to be the same thing as the Ukrainian Orthodox Church. They were definitely cut from the same cloth, so to speak.

The history of that church actually has early ties to Kiev. St. Cyril's Monastery is in Kiev. So a big part of what was historically Russian actually started in Ukraine, certainly where the Orthodox Church is concerned.

The Orthodox Church doesn't have a pope, but the closest thing they have to that is called the patriarchate. At first, there was a Kyiv Patriarchate but that position was later moved to Moscow. That happened way back in the 1600s.

But now there's a problem. Some - probably most - in Ukraine do not think having their patriarchate in Moscow makes sense, and in fact, they fear that the Moscow Church is biased and even puppets of Putin in some cases. So many do not recognize the authority of the Moscow patriarchate anymore. They have installed their own patriarchate in Kiev, considering him to be a restoration of the pre-1600s lineage.

You can see how complications can arise from this situation. Think about the days when the

Pope and the Kings had power-struggles in Europe and you can understand the situation in the various factions of the Eastern Orthodox Church and the governments of former Soviet republics. It's a thorny situation.

So when I hear "influencers" in America talking about Ukrainian policies that somehow "violate the church" or discussing "ethics" related to the church - if I don't also hear a basic description of the history of the church and its complexities - it's self-evident that their editorial is a complete spin-job. They are trying to play upon people's emotions without describing the whole situation. They are trying to promote an agenda.

Even more sadly, at least to me, is that the people I hear doing this didn't need the sales pitch. They have valid concerns about problems here in America and could provide valid suggestions that don't involve Ukraine at all. They don't need to use Ukraine as a scapegoat for American problems and should instead focus on the real problems they are trying to solve. Their message is distorted, so of course their proposed solutions are distorted. They would be better off describing the actual problems, and talking about their proposed solutions.

Any person that tells a story with partial information - spinning it to paint a picture that is almost completely false - frustrates me because I know they are complete gaslighters, and especially when I also know that others might not identify the deception. Most Americans don't know the history of the Eastern Orthodox Church, so it's easy to sell them a lie. Even intelligent people can be swayed.

There's a ton of that here. I generally just tune it out. I don't need to waste my time listening to a flat-earther or any other kind of gaslighter. My hope is that others will see it too, and to increase their scrutiny of their information sources.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 29 Sep 2023 19:14:16 GMT

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Yeah Wayne it's difficult for the public to disseminate information in our world. Always has I reckon. Nowadays though we have tremendous media and social outlets to give this, that and the other opinions, critiques, judgements and agenda's to sift through. I go by what adds up to me. All anyone can do. Our mass media does not give much nuance from toeing the line, especially in international affairs to what government agencies give out. I've found this to be the case too often.

A good example would be the so called Chinese SPY balloon that created media hysteria months ago. It was a damn weather balloon is all. General Milley confirmed it not being able to transmit over the US. It's still referred to the spy balloon though. Probably to save face. But the political theater then went so far as the military sending up jets to shoot down essentially a hobby balloon in Alaska released by ham radio enthusiasts in Illinois. That points to our hyped up foreign relations with China and other countries we deem as a threat.

I have gone from Putin/Russia disdain in the beginning of the Ukraine war to what this thread I

created has led me. By what I can disseminate from what I feel are reliable and reasoned sources. Government's do not reveal their poker hand to the public. They have agenda's, they have skin in the game. The public and whatever ethical journalistic source that you feel are un-politicized enough and curious enough to explore what the contradictions lead to are your best judgement for what there is to go on. That goes for the public in Ukraine as well. They don't know all the cards being told them are a good hand either. I'll leave it at that. But I stand by my posts.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 14 Nov 2023 13:50:23 GMT

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In light of the current situation in Ukraine and whether or not our congress will further fund this fiasco. This article gives a breakdown of the breakdown of negotiations going back before hostilities commenced in earnest. A detailed account of the various peace negotiations that transpired and the influence that the United States and Great Britain had on them.

A reflection on our diplomatic and Imperial world order ideology. It is a pattern that has played out since the end of WWII and the idealistic notion of exceptionalism of our virtues as a template to instill our democracy in the world.

The toll on Ukraine has been devastating. It is a war that did not have to occur. Ukraine could have stayed neutral and bring in all the neoliberal economic doctrine it desired to exploit its working class it wanted. The NATO component was their undoing.

<https://braveneweuropa.com/michael-von-der-schulenburg-hajo-funke-harald-kujat-peace-for-ukraine>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 18 Nov 2023 15:05:01 GMT

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I know, I know. Just another influencer to supplement my faithless notions that Truth, Justice & the American way will not prevail in the end. I can't help it I guess. But I think our nation is and has pursued a failed ideology for too long. Like a chronic disease. This article I think is rather amusing, in the vein of black humor. But it points out that some in our elite journalistic publications have come to realize that maybe our policies aren't working out as planned. But nonetheless, double down on the ideology that is outdated and self defeating.

<https://sonar21.com/some-neo-cons-slowly-coming-to-grips-with-reality-in-ukraine/>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 19 Nov 2023 14:54:24 GMT

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Honestly, dude, this just ain't about us.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 19 Nov 2023 17:57:57 GMT

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I don't agree Wayne. There is too much factual accounting by reliable reasoned sources to dismiss it for me. One thing though. Our State Department will never admit to any involvement. That is their history of spinning denial. National security you know.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 25 Nov 2023 22:05:41 GMT

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"Lets just fight". Eazy for him to say. You do the fighting & dying. We'll supply the weapons. Here's a Ukrainian TV interview with David Arakhamia. Head of the Ukrainian delegation of peace talks prior to the Russian invasion. Then British prime minister Boris Johnson visiting Kiev announced that the western, (US, Britain and NATO countries), made that statement and said they would not sign the document for Ukrainian neutrality. Which was the "main point" Russia had insisted upon. Russia's red line.

Russia beat our sanctions. Taken the territory that could have been bargained with before. Not now. They've improved their economy. Aligned with the southern tier of nations to form BRICS to de-dollarize. And they've decimated the Ukrainian army and the NATO weapons that made no difference. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin visited Kiev recently that military pundits referred to as, "a hospice visit".

It's starting to unfold. The subterfuge behind the war.

The war that didn't need to be. Thousands... Dead.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G\\_j-7gLnWU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G_j-7gLnWU)

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 07 Jan 2024 21:06:55 GMT

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The Propaganda that Damned Ukraine. The title says it all. Article by Charles Freeman, retired Diplomat, and Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. Not an influencer. A realist and man with geopolitical experience in high places. What he knows from experience in the realm of diplomacy and governmental calculations. The bottom line he expresses here is the complete depletion of

Ukraine. For no damn good reason. War, was not the answer. His summation:

Finally, this war should provoke some sober rethinking in both Washington and Moscow about the consequences of diplomacy-free, militarised foreign policy. Had the United States agreed to talk with Moscow, even if it had continued to reject much of what Moscow demanded, Russia would not have invaded Ukraine as it did. Had the West not intervened to prevent Ukraine from ratifying the treaty others helped it agree with Russia at the outset of the war, Ukraine would now be intact and at peace. This war did not need to take place. And every party to it has lost far more than it has gained.

<https://unherd.com/?p=487346>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 08 Jan 2024 00:09:50 GMT

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The Current Situation in Ukraine, from the United States Institute of Peace

Latest Ukraine Updates, from the U.S. Department of State

War in Ukraine, from the Council on Foreign Relations

The War in Ukraine Is Not a Stalemate, from ForeignAffairs.com, published by the Council on Foreign Relations

Russia's War in Ukraine, Insights from RAND

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 08 Jan 2024 12:27:27 GMT

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Official straight up PROPAGANDA. This is what the state department and of course the RAND corporation, a think tank highly aligned with the Pentagon in planning and ideology puts out to assuage the public.

The Mighty Wurlitzer:

<https://www.amazon.com/Mighty-Wurlitzer-How-Played-America/dp/067403256X>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Wed, 10 Jan 2024 02:10:12 GMT

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Hi Everyone, I was about to pass on this one as I find that this sort of topic is heading into a

direction that will cause resentments in normal and hopefully sane folks, but I believe some of the information is slanted and does not agree with events. To be sure our government and indeed all others will engage in things they don't tell us about. Not everything is as pretty as portrayed. I strongly suspect it was much worse during the active portions of the cold war. Also I consider misinformation a key element of policy for governments. It has been a key strategy since the beginning of time. Indeed it can sometimes avoid conflicts.

Ukraine would now be intact and at peace. This war did not need to take place.

I seriously doubt this statement. Russia wanted some things that would be unacceptable to any country. More territory (they already took Crimea) and wanted the two eastern parts of Ukraine. They wanted to tell Ukraine they could not be friendly with NATO and join it. And so on. Would your opinions be the same if Mexico said they wanted Texas back and we could not enter into agreements with Canada? No answer required, just food for thought. Russia wanted to take the areas without a fight and influence policy unilaterally that is for sure and the results so far have not benefited anyone. They figured (most likely) they could do what they did in Crimea. Just rattle the sword and move in. The Ukrainians had a few other thoughts. I would as well. So while we may never know all the details it seems clear to me that no amount of talking would have stopped the war. YMMV

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 10 Jan 2024 12:58:43 GMT

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We Americans are not well versed in international relations. We tend to see ourselves as the center of this world's affairs and happenings. Yet, we represent a mere 4.23 percent of the world's population. Our foreign affairs has reflected that. Particularly since the end of WWII when our dominance was established economically and militarily. As a good deal of Europe and Eurasia, (Russia) were in ruins. Russia alone bore the brunt of that world event. 27 million civilian and military dead. America's loss in comparison, (400,000) pales in comparison. And a country unscathed from destruction.

But we took the reins of world dominance in most all metrics of a society at its peak.

The last 50 years or so has not weathered well comparatively in those metrics internally for our country. But our State Department and military have not shown the same decline. Our adventurism into other countries "affairs" has not shown a good deal of positive outcomes for the populations of the countries we engaged and the political turnaround we'd anticipated. A quick check on our military interventions initiated throughout the world since the big war is 201.

Our State Department also has a long list of overt and covert dealings that a look at Wikipedia shows a host of regime change and coups.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_involvement\\_in\\_regime\\_change](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_involvement_in_regime_change)

Ukraine is part of that list now. And we very much did use overt and covert influences years prior to Russia commencing its military operations. The 2014 coup of Ukraine's sitting president at the time that had advocated neutrality has our diplomatic hands all over it. The overt part was to start arming Ukraine with weapons.



Russia had negotiated with Ukraine to "lease" the ports of Crimea prior to the two Minsk I and II talks to end hostilities in eastern Ukraine. Eastern Ukraine Bruce that is Russian speaking and Russian sympathetic. Our State Department and the NATO alliance was instrumental in refusing to "Sign" a last ditch treaty to prevent this war that did not have to happen.

Imagine Bruce to your hypothetical proposition Russia arming Mexico in its desire to regain Texas. What would the most likely response be from our country? Or do you forget the Cuban missile crisis. But who instigated that really? We had put missiles aimed at Russia in Turkey. John Kennedy wisely negotiated henceforth their removal as did Khrushchev in Cuba.

In all, we have a history and show a pattern of meddling in other nations' business. With scheme and with force. We have an M.O. And history has shown this to be counter productive. We project a cynical sense of faux virtues in the guise of liberty, freedom and democracy. When domestically our country now is a basket case. Crime, poverty, cost of living sky high, industry and manufacturing shipped off shore to maximize profit to a small percentage of the population. This war in Ukraine needs to end. Yesterday. Their country is depleted of population and economy. War is not the answer Bruce. But our modus operandi seems to speak otherwise.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [gofar99](#) on Sat, 13 Jan 2024 02:25:43 GMT

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Hi, I didn't mean to imply we were always the good guys. We are as imperialistic as any of the historical ones. I agree that war is not the answer..ever. Unfortunately, diplomacy fails to work a lot of the time. It presumes that all parties concerned are intelligent and will act in a manner that is beneficial not only to themselves but everyone else involved. I suspect that issues that can not be solved diplomatically will increase in the future. Sadly, the problems of resource availability will complicate an already messy future. When (not if) shortages of potable water, sufficient food and due to sea level rise dry land become severe the aggressive nature of our species will rear its angry head even more. It may be that some of the aggression now seen (like grabs for territory) in various parts of the world are early indicators of these issues. It saddens me as I don't expect to actually be around to experience it..but my children and grand children will. Where did we (collectively) go wrong? A long time ago it seems. Now that we seem to be facing the initial phases of the problems we tend to pass blame to anyone but ourselves and hope they go away. Fat chance this time. We (again collectively) only try to correct problems when we are smacked in the face with them. It is easier to pass the buck than take corrective action. I would really love to be wrong, but based on history and present events I don't see it. I like to be optimistic, but current trends don't appear to support that sort of thinking. Sorry to be a bit negative, but such is how I see it now. YMMV

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 13 Jan 2024 14:45:00 GMT

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I can agree with the gist of that Bruce. But my gripe is our continued antagonism in the world that

we put a blanket claim of national security and "rules based diplomacy" on. For instance, we're doing the same with Taiwan as we have with Ukraine. It's called turning a country into a porcupine. Arming it. My stance is. It's none of our damn business. China and Taiwan can work out their mutual history and claims on their own. Just as Russia and Ukraine could have. Until we stuck our nose in.

We as a nation have overstepped our bounds with impunity with foreign relations. History documents that. And if you understand the underpinnings of the BRICS coalition. That is a direct response to what our nation has carried out with it's entitlement of the dollar standard in trade since the Bretton Woods conference after WWII. Principally our financial sanctioning of countries, freezing their assets, taking their gold, (Venezuela). And our massive trade imbalance we've run up using bonds rather than goods to trade with.

We tried sanctioning with Russia and it blew back in our face. But we now want to take their assets tied up in western banks to promote more funding with the Ukraine debacle. Instead of making overtures to end this unnecessary conflict.

Our country has so many domestic issues to be better financed than what our military escapades and 7 to 8 hundred military installations throughout the world needing more and more funding each and every year now. And a military industrial complex that like our health care industry. Is the most expensive in the world and is fraught with cost overruns and overly complex expensive unreliable weapons systems. Mind you we couldn't even make enough 155mm shells to support the Ukrainians. Basic material.

I feel sorry for the Ukrainians. They've had a complex history with Russia and with Europe. They have lost by some accounting, (they won't release a count) hundreds of thousands of young men and women in this quest. And this war cannot be the outcome as was hoped for at the onset. As the article by Charles Freeman expresses. Assumptions were made and perceived by all parties that should now be reassessed in governmental circles.

I don't know though that our government has that capability unfortunately.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 18 Feb 2024 15:23:29 GMT

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I recently came upon this blog that I find really interesting for thoughtful analysis via a westerner's take on Russia. In lieu also of the recent interview of Mr. Putin by the controversial personality Tucker Carlson. Putin later grouched that all he threw him were softballs. He was ready for whatever heat Tucker could throw him. I listened to it and it backed up my revision of Putin, and the Russian federation as it stands in the world today.

This blog also augments the revision I've been cultivating for a while trying to get an idea of what current world events are and why they are. Like I've tried to express in this thread, is that our slant on what's going on in the world is somewhat tailored to the dominant ideology presented in news platforms and official government releases. But what is the other side saying? Contradictions arise that shouldn't be dismissed. Of course as the well worn acronym goes. YMMV.

<https://patrickarmstrong.ca/2023/12/30/listen-to-what-hes-saying/>

What's the latest dampening effect to the Putin interview? The revelation of Russia's space weapon! The Mighty Wurlitzer playing away.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 24 Feb 2024 17:24:22 GMT

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The prior and this are hopefully indicators that the more mainstream press will elaborate on with continuance with this war. This piece is an interview with an on the ground UN coordinator that's seen first hand the terrible cost this war. Like all wars do to people.

I hope there's some traction going on in high places to be sane and rational.

<https://news.un.org/en/interview/2024/02/1146752>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 06 Mar 2024 16:23:39 GMT

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A lesson of wisdom. From former ambassador to Russia Jack Matlock. It's well worth anyone taking time to listen to this senior fellow speak of carrying out U.S. diplomacy at the time of the Soviet Unions breakup. And his narrative on the position of the former Soviet ideology, socialism-communism compared with the U.S. ideology, democracy-capitalism. How they were used towards diplomatic initiatives and military policies.

Mr. Matlock gives a very intimate look from actually being there to what the historical ramifications were then and are now to the current war in Ukraine is all about. As he states at the end of his interview. Ukraine and Russia are basically in a sense having a "family dispute" that is being meddled with by outsiders. Great interview.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxjD02QnvJU>

<https://jackmatlock.com/2022/11/there-must-be-a-negotiated-settlement-with-russia/#more-1023>

<https://americandiplomacy.web.unc.edu/2024/02/the-christmas-gift-that-keeps-giving/>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 22 Mar 2024 16:44:08 GMT

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Sir, I guess you know now. This means War! What? weren't we at war? This paradox of the west to the goings on in Ukraine is typical to the delusion that helped create the special operations in the first place. Since the Ukraine's can't any longer carry out a legitimate military assault along the fortifications Russia has built in the territory now annexed. Ukraine does what it can with what little it has, trying to inflict pain inside Russia. It will not be tolerated.

The west grouses over Putin's reelection, saying its a hoax and rubber stamped. News outlets did their duty to produce propagandized articles as to so. Non corporatized journalism gives a more realistic appraisal.

<https://www.indianpunchline.com/putins-victory-is-a-geopolitical-reality>

For a more nuanced view of current activities in Ukraine. The Moon of Alabama blog is indispensable.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2024/03/russia-is-at-war-.html#more>

Any idea of exacerbating this conflict by going head to head with Russia by NATO will be idiotic to say the least.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 12 Apr 2024 17:04:18 GMT

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I'm not a fan of J.D.Vance. I don't believe in Libertarianism as a viable, realistic means of running an economy. I don't support or ever will Donald Trump. But he nails it with an opinion at the N.Y.Times. End this insufferable conflict. Whether one believes in the heroics of aligning to a NATO nation with all the words of freedom & democracy attached. Ukraine cannot ever win this war and never could even with the support of the US and NATO countries. Period.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/12/opinion/jd-vance-ukraine.html>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 17 Apr 2024 15:31:57 GMT

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Our legislature is debating over funding for two now unjustifiable wars. Both premeditated on ulterior aspirations. Things the public is kept in limbo over. Unless one takes the effort to sift the wheat from the chaff of propaganda. Another aspect to the funding is the electioneering going on in the cycle of US politics. The Ukraine dilemma particularly seems attached to saving face for an initiative doomed from the beginning. When the virtue of a state's sovereignty and affiliation, (Ukraine) is stripped away to show a crap shoot to destabilize another sovereign state in the process, (Russia). The pretense is shown to be hypocritical. Russia will not be compelled to give up its original intent concerning Ukraine. And no amount of re-funding will do anything more than prolong more destruction and death for a lost cause. Drawing it out till a post election cycle would seemingly show a very cynical, ethically vacant philosophy.

Here is what the determination that the Russian effort amounts to. A statement from Dmitry Medvedev, former president, now deputy chairman of the security council of Russia. Would it not be better for everyone involved, especially in Ukraine, to take heed Russia's resolve to not be deterred in finishing the job they actually intended. Not the west's version. Which is a fraud.

<https://expert.ru/mnenie/dmitriy-medvedev-u-rossii-kak-i-lyuboy-velikoy-derzhavy-strategicheskies-granitsy-lezhat-daleko-za-predelami-geograficheskikh/>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Wed, 17 Apr 2024 15:51:28 GMT

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Dude! I'm telling you this because we're friends. I respect your thoughts and opinions. But on this one, you've bought into a propaganda that is nothing but hubris. I'm not saying your thoughts are hubris - I'm saying the people you are listening to are spreading an alternate reality that is nothing but hubris.

The whole mission from Putin was motivated by arrogance and anyone siding with that is "cosigning his bullshit."

I know people over there that are fighting for their lives.

Alona's brother Alex went missing - hopefully captured - a couple months ago during a battle near Lugansk.

The Ukrainian people simply want freedom and a choice for a free market system. They want to be westernized. They do not want to be governed by Moscow.

Putin's government has basically become a nation controlled by mobsters. It's like what would have happened here if organized criminals were appeased and even courted instead of being prosecuted. Not that we're perfect here - sometimes it looks like mobsters run Washington too - but believe me, it's a lot worse over there.

I can't believe what has happened in Russia. Their "leadership" is worse than it was during the Soviet Union, which is lower than low. They are now what they claimed to be against. They saw the West as being "fat cat capitalists," greedy and entitled. But in fact, that's what they are now ruled by - the so called "oligarch" novi russki.

At one time, those people assassinated their Tsar. What they have now is much, much worse.

We, here in America, just do not have any visibility into that problem so we are unable to form an informed opinion. Better to have no opinion than to have one formed by propaganda.

Trust me, my friend, the good side here is very one-sided. The good side to take here is "freedom for Ukraine."

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Wed, 17 Apr 2024 22:56:52 GMT

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Sorry Wayne, I feel opposite. The Ukrainians could have had, and can still have when this god awful mess is over. All the neoliberal free market misery that we have in our country. The Russians have stated over and over their intent with Ukraine. And it doesn't include reclaiming the

Baltic's or for Christ's sake Europe. That is pure unadulterated bull. It's been well established our diplomatic meddling with the current Ukraine government to commit to this futile waste of humanity on the NATO pretense. It could have been averted at the onset of the full scale military commencement. I'm afraid it's western propaganda that has pulled the wool over the public's eyes. I've presented that in this thread and it's anyone's choice to disagree. But as usual with our foreign entanglements. It snowballs into a giant fecal mess. Scores of people perish, destruction is wrought, and we walk away on to other malfeasance.

We're doing that with Taiwan. We're perilously close to being pulled into war with Iran with our commitment to indulge a long standing apartheid and now genocidal committing Israel. The governments of Iraq, Sudan and Niger want our military out of their country, that we ignore.

The trouble with this country is that it has lost all sense of virtue that it possessed after the end of WWII. We have become as our economic doctrine has shown to be. Selfish, obstinate, arrogant and corrupt. We see it in our politics, our financial institutions and most evidently our fraudulent diplomacy.

I understand Wayne that with your connection to that part of the world, that it carries a certain amount of emotional and sentimental weight. With that perhaps a certain amount of bias. These events are all out of that realm. The world of government plans and actions transcend our personal lives till unless we get caught up in actions that get out of hand. Let's hope we don't have to face what the Ukraine's have. I still contend with what I comprehend, they never had to. There are many other people who think the same. I used to share the same views Wayne as you and most Americans. But I don't take in what available information verbatim without investigation when contradictions arise. I believe the contradictions I've followed outweigh the prevailing sentiment.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 10 Sep 2024 00:15:56 GMT

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A rational discussion on the irrational foreign policy of nation states. Economist Jeffrey Sachs has a dialogue with political scientist John Mearsheimer on his new book, How States Think. Delving into the study of how nations and leaders with their advisors come to form their international policies. Mearsheimer and his co-writer Sebastian Rosado, looked at 14 cases of international and US national policy decisions and how the process was arrived at.

In all 14 they found all to be similar from authoritarian or democratically aligned governments in the way policy was derived. All by a small inner circle of people in the government. And ironically they found that democratic governments tended to "sell" policy to their general public by basically lying by creating a cover story or narrative to bolster their policy decisions. They found that most particularly in the lead up to the US Iraqi war.

A very interesting discussion with two highly regarded academician's.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkvmQAJ8AQU>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Thu, 12 Sep 2024 18:27:20 GMT

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A key component of how this God awful mess got traction and put into motion is admitted to by Victoria Nuland. Now a retired diplomat to Ukraine. This whole thing could have and should have been averted but for our insufferable, idiotic, stupid, arrogant foreign policy. What the pundits in the know are saying is this will play out until after the November US election. So, let even more lives be wasted in this obscene cause perpetrated by the western NATO alliance. Sick! Just as our Israeli policy is.

<https://www.commondreams.org/opinion/victoria-nuland-ukraine-peace-deal>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Thu, 12 Sep 2024 21:57:33 GMT

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My interpretation of what was said in that link is that the so-called "peace deal" proposed by Putin right after his attack was a really shitty deal that nobody in their right mind would take.

"Victoria Nuland says about as clearly as a diplomat can that the U.S. scuttled the peace deal on the table in March 2022 because it would have required Ukraine to agree to limits on weapons it would purchase."

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Fri, 13 Sep 2024 12:10:13 GMT

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Based on our discussion Wayne I'm not surprised with your narrow interpretation on this. But the article and admission by Nuland gives credence along with other admissions from Ukraine negotiators and even Boris Johnson as Prime Minister of Britain has said. Which a few decent journalists and scholars have been saying all along.

That our western NATO influence was crucial in coaxing the Ukraine government towards this proxy war with Russia. Because the lead up even to the Istanbul peace summit had been years prior of negotiations with the civil war going on in eastern Ukraine that we were arming and financing. Notwithstanding the color revolution in 2014 in Ukraine Nuland was largely influential in administering. And the thread of NATO expansion planning in our State Department and Pentagon from the mid nineties on that was to culminate with putting Ukraine in place, the final piece of the puzzle towards 'containing' Russia.

Which all along in that time period was and is evidently still Vladimir Putin and the consensus of Russia's government consistently has addressed as a demarcation that would trigger conflict.

Our country in the 1960's almost went nuclear toe to toe with the Soviet Union over arms placement in Cuba. Though we had first put equivalent arms in Turkey. But as our policy of the old

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Monroe Doctrine exemplifies. No other country will impose their influence on our hemisphere much less our very own boarder with military capability.

Yet Russia, who lost over 25 million people in WWII by the Nazi's, and has been invaded over the centuries by many countries has no right to sovereignty in their security of their borders.

Our country has overstepped our bounds with our concept of exceptionalism and indispensability in this world with our financial/military dominance. It's rather an inheritance from the British empire. That has been played out in history with all the empire states. Romans, Ottoman, Persian. On and on with military adventurism.

This Ukraine chapter will play out till negotiations with terms favorable to what Russia wanted all along. No NATO up to their boarder. It's another sad chapter in a long line of fizzled out foreign policy fiasco's our country has promoted over the last half a century. Isn't it time to reflect on that legacy and craft a different approach?

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 15 Sep 2024 14:27:01 GMT

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Another great back story to the wicked web we weave. Jeffrey Sachs, a name I've mentioned several times with respect. An economist that was privy to the collapse of the Soviet Union and was asked to help with their floundering economy then. Recounts his attempts to get policy in place to help with their economic problems. All rejected by our government. He mentions how a fraudulent incentive program was hatched that led to the Russian oligarchy becoming entrenched in their economy.

Mr. Sachs had successfully implemented an economic agenda in Poland prior that had used debt forgiveness and a means to ramp up their economy that was similar to the Marshall Plan used in war ruined Germany that helped with the German miracle with their economy.

No such respect was afforded to Russia. Who had been our allies in WWII and who essentially destroyed the Nazi's military capability hastening the end of the 3rd Reich. Our Russia phobia has gone on unabated since the end of that war. But it goes back of course much further. Back even beyond from the Russian revolution and the whole concept of socialism and communism. The word socialism to a capitalist is like a crucifix to a vampire.

What Mr. Sachs is saying ties into what our whole foreign policy has amounted to post WWII. The wicked web we weave.

<https://www.racket.news/p/a-true-shock-economist-jeffrey-sachs>

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Sun, 15 Sep 2024 15:38:02 GMT

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That article is a very accurate depiction of the state of the post-Soviet Russian states, not just Russia but all of them. It is also a good description of the economic conditions that helped the novi-russki - the class of criminals we call oligarks - grow and become immensely wealthy and powerful. That class includes Putin. He's one of them. He became their ringmaster. Head mobster.

The article you've mentioned here also describes what the USA did to influence the economy and politics in that region. Nothing. We paid very little attention to the post-Soviet states after the wall fell.

Good article. Thanks for the link.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine  
Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sun, 15 Sep 2024 19:43:19 GMT  
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Absolutely. Jeffrey Sachs is very accurate with his analysis. And what he recalls is the purposeful neglect of helping the Russians. Unlike what his efforts in Poland received from our government. Had our State Department and political biases not been so intensely demeaning with the Russians. Their chances of economic recovery would not have been so arduous and long. Nor would their oligarchic development gotten such a hold. Mind you that was our policy incentive scheme to them. And it was fraudulent. Just as it is with our very own oligarchic players in our economy. The ones that pull political strings with our government with campaign contributions and lobbying bribes.

Jeffrey Sachs is one of the main proponents of pointing out our deranged foreign policy and complicity in the Ukrainian fiasco. It would serve the public well to know about him and others that have been the beacon of truth to the political perversion that's been going on for so long. Putin has benefitted with the system in Russia. Like our politicians have benefitted with the system here. But reading his statements and speeches in comparison to what I heard from the "Great Debate" last week. I can only hope some providence keeps check on our republic.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine  
Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2024 14:11:20 GMT  
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Back then - in the 1990s - most of the former-Soviet states were all buddies. They all felt themselves to be Russian by culture but hopeful to "westernize." They wanted to have the "good life" that they perceived we have in America. But they all thought themselves as Russians. By this, I mean the Ukrainians, Moldovans, Armenians, Belorussians, Azerbaijani, and many of the other former-Soviet Moslem states.

There were some former-Soviet states that were anti-Russian - like Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia - but most were not. Most former-soviet states were more than friendly to Russia and considered themselves to still be Russian, at least by culture and language. They often identified as such - for example, you could ask the residents of these countries their nationality and most of them would say, "Russian." But they did consider their countries and their politics to be Western-style democracies - they were proud of their independence - and they were hopeful for change.

That is true of Russia as well. The majority of people there were hopeful to become a free market country, to enjoy economic success and to trade with America and Europe.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2024 16:22:15 GMT

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I think if you were to read more of Jeffery Sachs and other progressive economists. That you would come to realize that our country had and still has nothing but contempt for Russia. As it has for since beyond the Russian revolution and back to Britain's disdain going back to the 19th century. Our economic involvement with Russia after the Soviet collapse was only insofar as what our oligarchy thought it could gain out of their natural resources. Oil and gas mainly and minerals.

Yes, Russia and all the former Soviet states were ready for westernization. The centralized planning of economy was an inefficient way to promote innovation from competition promoted by the private sector. The west was still on a roll then from the Keynesian economics having influenced our economies. But Neoliberalism was taking hold from it's establishment fully from Regan's two terms. Capitalist financializing was getting a toe hold. And financial dominance in an economy is parasitic to its society.

At this point Russia has no interest in being a part in the western neoliberal, so called, free market economy. They and China, India, Brazil and South Africa are the original members of BRICS. And the combined trade within BRICS and other countries willing join are greater than our G7 countries.

This wouldn't have gained it's traction if it weren't for our country's shameful and arrogant foreign policy. It's literally forced countries to adapt away from our economic policies. This wouldn't have happened without the miracle of China's socialist government and private business hybrid economy. Particularly with their main banking sector being a public entity. No private, financialized, speculation that plays havoc with our economy.

We are our worst enemy to ourselves. But we lash out at trying to hold on to our perception of the worlds only exceptional, indispensable country.

The party's over. We may antagonize China, try to contain Russia and bully smaller nations to play by our rules that we makeup for our benefit. But the world is changing away from our sole dominance as it used to be.

It's high time.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Mon, 16 Sep 2024 17:44:22 GMT

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I think there's a huge disconnect between the populations of all the former-Soviet countries and their governments. And I think that's largely true here too. I think we are growing more and more disconnected from our government here.

But that is maybe sort of beside the point. I think the point is - one that we seem to agree upon - that Russia and frankly, all of the former-Soviet countries were largely ignored by the United States until fairly recently. We did nothing to help their economies or to pull them into any sort of alignment with the United States.

To be very honest, I wondered why we did that. It seemed to me that when the cold war wall fell, we would want to embrace that. To "finish the job," so to speak, but in a good way. It seemed so possible to me. There were literally millions of Russians - from all of those countries - that wanted to embrace the west. They were starving and living in what you or I would consider cheap apartments. Families with a mother and father having advanced degrees living in squalor and starving to death. They definitely wanted change and saw the west as the way to get that change. They idealized us.

I remember back then very well. In the early 1990s, many of my customers were oil companies, mostly manufacturers of equipment for oil-well completions. These were companies that made pump-jacks, engines, tubing, packers, liner-hangers, etc. They started trying to trade with companies in the former Soviet Union. But the problem had already started. The novi-russki had already started buying up the stock in the oil companies there. Our American companies couldn't do business with them - not because they were afraid of ethics laws (which would have been another hurdle to jump) - but because control of the oil companies was already being taken over by thugs. It was literally unsafe to do business with them.

So these American oil equipment manufacturers didn't even have a chance to start talking about how to navigate what would have been Russian regulations and tariffs, many of which were actually bribes. But bribes there aren't always the same as what you would think of here. Some are almost more like a tip that you pay a waitress - not actually some big crime - but American rules may have made that hard to navigate. Still, that's a side-issue, not the main point.

The main point is that even in the early 1990s, Russia had a problem just beginning. The problem was that the novi-russki had started taking over business there. The privatization idea was a good one - to give every Russian worker stock in the company they worked for - but it was maybe a little naive 'cause most people had no idea what value stock ownership was, and they were hungry, so they sold it cheap. Who was there to buy it? People that were already corrupt and had some disposable income. The mob families that sold drugs and prostitutes on the black market had money. So they bought stock in the oil companies and anything else with value.

I wondered to myself, why aren't we doing anything about that? There are millions of good people over there that actually want to live the "American dream." They idealized us. Why not help them? Many of them were highly skilled, and most were wanting to be safe and free. We had a lot of goodwill over there.

But we did nothing. We let the novi-russki take over and gain strength for a couple decades. The Russian government now is just a bunch of mobsters with nukes. They're truly horrible people. It's nothing like the Soviets were. It's much, much worse.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2024 00:42:32 GMT

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I don't buy that. That Russia is just a bunch of mobsters with nukes. It's no where as bad as in the mid 90's under Yeltsin. It was a very unfortunate botched effort in Russia and of course our country that made no effort to help. Jeffrey Sachs gave up in disgust. Putin didn't enter the scene until 99. And he has broken up the worst corrupt oligarchic players and has taken back into public domain some important industries.

Putin is enjoying a high degree of public support now. And contrary to naysayers the Russian economy is doing well. Better than ever thanks to the formation of the BRICS coalition. And despite our bitter sanctioning.

But like Sachs and others are and have been saying since hostilities. Overtures towards peace negotiations is crucial for the sake of Ukraine's remaining servicemen and women. They have suffered terrible casualties. There's no sense in prolonging the inevitable. The hold up as it was in the mid 90's is in our political disdain of Russia. It's counter productive and unwarranted.

It's very easy to vilify a nation through it's leader. And our national security organizations have done a thorough job of it. It's used to shape public opinion for what that small group of people in high places desire to project in foreign policy.

The fact is. Russia will not stop with this effort until the threat of NATO is removed from any possibility of being in Ukraine's future. And it will hold all the territory it has taken. That's the way it will be. Sorry Joe Biden.

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Wayne Parham](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2024 15:25:13 GMT

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I can remember very well when Putin was appointed Prime Minister by Yeltsin on New Year's Eve in 1999. I personally thought he was going to be a good leader. He seemed charismatic and energetic, and I kind of liked him for a few years.

But everyone I knew in the Russian community in Tulsa warned me that he would be terrible. I didn't really understand why. I still don't know how they knew he would be terrible so far back. But they were right.

In the early 1990s, Yeltsin had endured a pretty unstable government, especially in its parliament

and with its connection to the military. There were some close calls, especially those in October 1993. But Russia had gone through a huge upheaval. Their instability was understandable - I don't see that it could have been any other way. Their whole problem was how to make the government transition more stable.

By the late 1990s, Yeltsin's hope in Putin was that he would control the novi-ruski, and to make sure that those people and organizations that took over sectors in the public and private spheres would be responsible to the citizens and good for the nation. It was a little like the efforts in the USA to control organized crime by creating the FBI.

But instead of the Russian government reducing organized crime, it embraced it. Putin cultivated relationships with the novi-ruski mobsters that were both potentially powerful and who showed loyalty to him. He arrested or killed those that weren't completely loyal. So over the couple decades that have passed since then, the Russian government became what it is today. That's why I call the Russian government a "bunch of mobsters with nukes."

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 17 Sep 2024 16:25:44 GMT

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I think that's a matter of conjecture with the continuous paranoia of Russia and Putin in our foreign policy beliefs. His standing in his country is solid. The people there are enjoying a better quality of life now. And the Ukrainian war is justifiable throughout their public consensus as well. They'd like it to end for sure. They have lost many lives as well.

This is our doings by design that like our policy in Israel and the general mess we've made in the Middle East over the years. Bosnia, Vietnam. The list is much larger and contributes to where our standing in the world is nowadays, economically and politically.

We have no rational diplomacy. As Jeffrey Sachs points out.

<https://www.jeffsachs.org/newspaper-articles/w8jwrwhcnmf9bf2dmwfy57l85r47af>

Do we continue with this charade? Upping the ante proxy-wise with Russia by hinting at long range weapons to strike within Russia to keep this fiasco going. Endangering a bigger more dangerous war. A war with tactical nuclear weapons then full throttle nuclear exchange. For what? For prestige, to keep our numero-uno concept intact?

The slogan of, "Ukraine is fighting for freedom & democracy" is being replaced by senator Lindsey Graham hitting the Sunday talking head shows a couple weeks back that Ukraine has vast mineral deposits that will be subverted to Russia and China if we don't keep this going.

Then there's China we antagonize constantly.

This policy is nutso!

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Subject: Re: Ukraine

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Tue, 01 Oct 2024 15:53:05 GMT

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Let's dispense with all the political theater that permeates our culture. We are ill informed and led astray by an apparatus set up to justify an ideology that has now pushed itself to the point of being unmanageable. The 'majority' of the worlds population wants to be able to take part in being economically successful. But our country and our allies are apposed to that. We lead by being petty and arrogant. That's been the hallmark of colonialist empire management forever. It's a pattern associated with the past that should and must end for future world development and management.

This dialogue exchange shows how the futile efforts of our western culture to try and keep this 20th century ideology going into the 21st century is counter productive and threatening world peace. Peace for the prosperity of all sovereign nations to pursue. Without one dominating country to make the rules in its own favor to sustain an ideology and it's wealthy classes benefit.

<https://michael-hudson.com/2024/10/a-world-pushed-to-resist-u-s-policies-and-the-rise-of-global-alliances/>

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**Subject: Re: Ukraine**

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 19 Oct 2024 19:38:45 GMT

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An example of the stupefying manipulations of our national security agencies and the think tank operations that craft the corporate news outlets to follow their tabloid narratives is the latest idiotic blurbs that North Korea is sending troops to help the Russians fight in the Kursk region and in Ukraine. About as dumb as what the Chinese balloon scare was. Its so easy to shape public sentiment with propaganda. Like Trump does, just put something outrageous out there and keep saying it. Like the Haitian immigrants eating dogs and kitty cats in Ohio. Or his perpetual stolen 2020 election.

Are we that gullible to swallow this tripe? Unfortunately so.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2024/10/ukraine-hyped-threat-of-north-korean-soldiers-expands.html#more>

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**Subject: Re: Ukraine**

Posted by [Rusty](#) on Sat, 02 Nov 2024 15:24:16 GMT

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It's the narrative. Propaganda fed to the corporate press to manage and persuade public opinion. Ukraine is in its last throws of conducting this fruitless war of attrition. Foisted upon them by their corrupt leaders and our corrupt national security apparatus that influences our corrupt political apparatus.

So, another country in a now among a long history of countries affected by our foreign policy to try and maintain our hegemony in this world. Its an abomination.

Here's how the narrative has played out via the NY Times.

<https://www.moonofalabama.org/2024/11/ny-times-announces-ukraine-narrative-change.html#more>

I feel disgusted with our country's behavior with the Ukraine disaster and primarily with the Israeli genocide we have permitted. All in our quest to maintain our semblance of control. We continue to torment and torture little Cuba after all these years. By vetoing a referendum, now done annually, and voted yes to end our blockade on a poor Caribbean Island by every nation on Earth save the US and Israel. Because it has stubbornly refused to become a neoliberal puppet to our way of doing business.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1156316>

And not to change one iota with either candidate we vote on Nov. 5.

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