

## HOW THE WEST LOST RUSSIA

The plausibility of our narrative, that the democratic liberal West respects international law and human rights and keeps treaties and promises while the authoritarian East violates them, can be judged based on historical facts.

1. In 1993, a bilateral agreement was signed between the US and Russia for partial nuclear disarmament of Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union (*Program Megatons to Megawatts*). Russia fulfilled its obligations for 20 years. By 2013, 500 tons of uranium, equivalent to 20,000 nuclear warheads, had been removed from military availability.
2. In 1996 the UN General Assembly adopted the *Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty*. Russia ratified the Treaty while the US did not.
3. Regarding the Multilateral Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for international security (*Chemical Weapons Convention, 1997*), Russia completed the relevant process in 2017, while the USA postponed the deadline for liquidating its chemical weapons to 2023.
4. The Plutonium Recycling Agreement (*2000 Russia-U.S. Plutonium Agreement*) provided for reciprocal U.S.-Russian actions for the irreversible conversion of plutonium through processing and combustion in a reactor. Russia proceeded with fuel production and reactor construction (in the Siberian city of Zheleznovodsk) while the US did not.
5. In 2001, the United States withdrew from the *Kyoto Protocol* (1997) on long-term global warming and climate change after President George W. Bush questioned the scientific basis of global warming.
6. In 2002, under President George W. Bush, the United States withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (*ABM Treaty, 1972*), undermining the principle of Mutually Assured Destruction.
7. In 2019 under President Donald Trump, the US repealed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (*INF Treaty, 1987*).

8. The West violated its promise to Russia in the framework of the *2+4 Treaty* of 1990, expanding NATO to the East even to countries of the former Soviet bloc (Hungary, Czech Republic Poland 1999, Estonia Latvia Lithuania Slovenia Slovakia Bulgaria Romania 2004, Croatia Albania 2009, Montenegro 2018, North Macedonia 2020).

9. The US has indicated its intention to install an *anti-missile shield in Russia's neighborhood*, in violation of the 1997 Russia-NATO agreement. In 2008 they pressured the Europeans to invite Georgia and Ukraine to join NATO. In 2014 there was an *American-led coup in Ukraine*.

10. The *Minsk agreements* (2014 and 2015) with guarantors Germany and France were never implemented. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former French President François Hollande said the deals were made to give Ukraine time to build up its military against Russia.

11. In 2023, a year after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, President Putin announced that Russia was freezing its participation in the *START Treaty*, claiming that Washington had obstructed Russian inspections of the US in violation of its core principle condition.

12. At least until 2022, the Russian doctrine of nuclear use was formulated as a "second strike" i.e. Russia would use nuclear weapons in retaliation only if the adversary used them first. In contrast, the US has formulated the nuclear "first use" doctrine.

13. The "Military Intervention" study at Tufts University in Boston states that between 1950 and 2017, the *US intervened in foreign nations one hundred and twenty two (122) times*. Brown University's "Costs of War Project" explains that the war on terror has been used by the US as a justification for operations in nearly half the world's countries, *in violation of the Treaty of Westphalia* (Peace of Westphalia, 1648) which states that internal affairs of a state concern the state itself and no interference by third parties is allowed (Westphalian sovereignty). US intervention in foreign states violates the concept of the sovereign state, a central pillar of international law.

Given all of the above, it is reasonable to ask: Does the West respect Treaties and International Law?

The **Western mass media** spread the information that violation of the sovereignty of the various states by the West, i.e. the violation of the Treaty of Westphalia, is done for a good purpose. But

**are we convinced** that the West had to invade Iraq and bomb Libya because Saddam Hussein and Muammar Gaddafi, respectively, were 'satanic dictators'? That we had to support the terrorist organization ISIS to overthrow the Assad regime in Syria? That there should be regime change in Russia and North Korea? Should China follow?

What is the true cause of violation of the sovereignty of various countries by the West? Is our narrative about '**fighting terrorism**' and '**exporting democracy**' valid?

### **DOES THE WEST FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM?**

Was the US war in Afghanistan a fight against terrorism? That war was waged to "drive out the Taliban". However, it lasted 20 years and resulted in the return of the Taliban in power and the establishment of an Islamic caliphate. Is the West right to claim that it fights against terrorism? If we consider the Iraq war in 2003 (consequently the civil war between Shiites and Sunnis) with a chain of crises in Lebanon, in Syria and back in Iraq, as well as wars without even the approval of the UN (or the US Congress) such as (i) in Iraq in 2003 to search for alleged weapons of mass destruction that have never been found and (ii) in Yugoslavia with the brutal bombing of 1999 in order to dismember it, is the West right to claim that it respects human rights? Are we, Westerners, fighting Terrorism and exporting Democracy with these perpetual wars, as advertised by the Western media, or are we destroying countries without any concern for the ashes we leave behind, and without the slightest fulfillment of their post-war needs? Is the driving force really the 'export of democracy' or the interests of war industries, the securing of pro-Western regimes and the expansion of our dominion over the planet?

The incomplete list, below, of US and NATO military invasions and CIA operations against 'undesirable' governments (often democratically elected) indicates that we use 'the export of democracy' as a pretext:

**Korea 1950:** US bombing and use of chemical and biological weapons; **Egypt 1951:** British planes bomb Egyptian cities; **Cuba 1952:** US-backed military coup; **Iran 1953:** Overthrow of democratically elected prime minister overseen by CIA; **Guatemala 1954:** Overthrow of democratically elected government by operation CIA; **Egypt 1956:** Britain and France bomb Egyptian airports after nationalizing the Suez Canal; **Lebanon 1958:** US Marines enter Beirut;

**Indonesia 1958:** CIA sends weapons to army rebels by bombing government posts; **United Arab Emirates 1958:** British troops land in Aden, Kuwait, Oman and Bahrain; **Iraq 1958:** US and British troops invade Iraq; **Lebanon and Jordan 1958:** US and British military interventions; **Congo 1960:** US NSA decides to overthrow and assassinate the popular leader of the Congo; **Cuba 1961:** Failed military intervention to overthrow Castro; **Vietnam 1964:** US causes genocide in Vietnam, spends \$150 billion and loses the war; **Saint Dominic 1965:** US military occupies Saint Dominic and dictatorship is established; **Indonesia 1965:** Decisive US role in the Indonesian holocaust (500,000 dead; 1.5 million imprisoned communists) and in the establishment of a dictatorial regime; **Greece 1967:** US-led military junta with the help of the CIA; **Arab countries 1967:** Americans and British support the Israelis in the six-day war against of Arab peoples; **Cambodia 1969:** Bombing of Cambodia by American troops; **Chile 1973:** Pinochet in collaboration with the CIA assassinates the elected president of the country Salvador Allende and a pro-American regime is established; **Egypt/Syria 1973:** Americans supply the Israelis who attack Egypt and Syria; **Cyprus 1974:** Coup in Cyprus, and occupation of 37% of the island by Turkish troops until today, with the support of England; **Angola 1976:** CIA funds and arms South African-backed rebels; **El Salvador 1980:** US provides dictatorship with major military and financial aid; **Nicaragua 1981:** US supports and aids military and paramilitary activities against Nicaragua; **Libya 1981:** US fighter jets bomb Libya, aiming to kill Gaddafi; **Grenada 1983:** US troops invade the Caribbean island and overthrow a Cuban-backed government; **Libya 1986:** US bombing, condemned by UN and European countries (5th US intervention on foreign soil Ronald Reagan); **Irangate 1986:** Members of the US government secretly supply weapons to Iran. Proceeds go to finance Nicaraguan rebels. Iran is the second country in the world (after Russia) to be sanctioned by the West; **Panama 1989:** Americans (under George H. W. Bush) invade to arrest Panamanian leader Noriega, who earlier was funded (under Reagan) to hit the Sandinistas in Nicaragua; **Iraq 1991:** First Persian Gulf War televised! A 31-nation US-led international alliance (under George W. Bush) formed against Saddam Hussein to liberate Kuwait; **Somalia 1992:** US/NATO intervene for humanitarian aid, while intervention turns into bloody hell; **Bosnia 1994:** The involvement of NATO in Bosnia War (in addition to unauthorized bombing) turns civil war into complex international conflict; **Haiti 1994:** CIA-backed dictatorship, US invasion of island, naval blockade; **Croatia 1995:** US/NATO bomb airfields of Krajina Serbs; **Sudan–Afghanistan**

**1998:** US missiles (under Clinton) hit a drug factory in Sudan and former CIA training camps in Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden survives; **Former Yugoslavia 1999:** After the EEC decision to dismember Yugoslavia, and without UN approval, the US/NATO bomb Serbia (2300 air strikes over 78 days) and make Kosovo a US protectorate; **Former Yugoslavia 2001:** US/NATO forces support Albanians seeking independence and unification of Albanian-speaking areas in the Balkans; **Afghanistan 2001-2021:** Massacres of thousands of Afghans in the longest US war (\$2.6 trillion) in order to crush the Taliban, with the end result of the Taliban regaining power after the withdrawal of the US; **Yemen 2002-2019:** CIA with 336 drone attacks kill 1,389 civilians. In 2015, oil producer Saudi Arabia, supported by the Obama administration (with \$115 billion in arms deals) is using starvation as a war tactic. The United Nations announces that the US, Britain and France are complicit in war crimes in Yemen; **Iraq 2003:** Second Persian Gulf War. American-British operation 'Shock and Awe' (under G. W. Bush and Blair) aims to overthrow the then leader of Iraq Saddam Hussein, with the excuse of the existence of weapons of mass destruction which were never found. The French and German governments refused to support this illegal attack; **Somalia 2007:** US military has been secretly keeping troops in Somalia since 2007; **Libya 2011:** Obama decides that America wants to topple Gaddafi. Tripoli becomes the target of NATO bombings, while the British bombard the oil producer Brega; **Syria 2014 and 2017:** Air bombings against the Islamic State with the participation of Arab states under Obama (2014) and under Trump (2017) using as a pretext the unconfirmed use of chemical weapons by the Assad government; **Mali 2013:** French troops backed by US air force intervene in Mali; **Ukraine 2014:** US-backed Ukrainian coup by far-right neo-Nazis, who seize power (under Obama) to prevent pro-Russian forces from taking over.

The conclusion to be drawn from the above is that the narrative concerning 'fighting against terrorism' is untrue, and the attempt to expand the West's dominion over the planet respects neither International Law nor Human Rights.

### **DOES THE WEST FIGHT AGAINST TOTALITARIANISM ?**

According to an analysis by Rich Whitney (former Illinois Green Party gubernatorial candidate) based on data from Freedom House's World Civil Rights Assessment (a non-governmental organization with 86% of its funding from the US government), there were 49 countries on the

planet with dictatorial regimes (data up to 2015). According to fiscal data from the same year, the US Federal Government provided military support to 36 of these states. In other words, **the USA supported at least 73% of the world's dictatorial regimes** until 2015.

Apparently, the narrative concerning the 'export of democracy' is also untrue.

And of course, the West's endless invasions of independent states and overthrows of 'unwanted' governments tend to be ignored in the current demonization of Russia, which has been worrying as the West destroys Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and reacted militarily when NATO decided to expand on the border of Russia. If the USA was right to intervene in **Cuba in 1961** to overthrow Fidel Castro, and if John Kennedy was right in **1962** to be ready for nuclear war in case the Soviets did not remove their missiles from Cuba that borders the US, so why isn't Putin right today to demand that NATO desists from expanding into Ukraine which borders Russia? Is the anti-Soviet Truman Doctrine being revived in our time in the form of Russophobia? Isn't Kissinger right to say that demonizing Putin is not politics but an excuse for the lack of politics?

## **DEMOCRACIES AND AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES**

On what principles does the west base its division of the world into “good democracies” and “bad authoritarian regimes”? On what principles does the West base the distinction between a “free democratic capitalist world” and an “authoritarian anti-democratic world of socialism”, or rather a capitalist mutation of socialism?

1. Is there any doubt that **bourgeois democracy** everywhere evolved into an authoritarian state with the preservation of certain rights? For example, were the citizens of any Western countries asked if they want to send weapons to Ukraine? It certainly does not represent the majority of Greeks, as polls show that almost 70% are against sending arms to Ukraine. However, the Greek Government is sending arms at the behest of the EU and the US authorities. Were the citizens of Europe asked if they approve of the sanctions against Russia, even with the energy and food costs boomeranging?

2. How do the wealthy people of Russia who wield power (hence the term **oligarchs**) differ from those of the West?

First, the six richest people on the planet according to the Forbes list belong to the West: Jeff Bezos founder of Amazon in the USA, Elon Musk founder and CEO of Tesla in the USA, Bernard Arnault tycoon of the luxury goods industry in France, Bill Gates founder of Microsoft in the USA, Mark Zuckerberg founder of Facebook in the USA, and Warren Buffett business investor in the USA.

Second, there is no doubt that the leading financiers of the governments of the West, who provide exorbitant amounts of money for election propaganda, have expectations for post-election profits. So, Russian oligarchs do not have a monopoly of bartering political influence for monetary gain.

3. **US military-industrial complex companies** (such as Raytheon Technologies, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics) are a major export sector, making the US the largest arms exporter on the planet. Of their \$2.5 billion in lobbying spending over the past twenty years, more than \$285 million was spent in the form of financial support to American politicians' election campaigns (Center for Responsive Politics). The goal is to influence government decisions. Is there any doubt that one of the main reasons the various US governments are planning perpetual wars is to reward the military-industrial complex for their campaign financing?

4. **Wealth inequality** in the US is greater than in China and Russia. Specifically, the World Bank's Gini Index (where 0% represents perfect equality and 100% maximum inequality) shows 41.4% for the US, 38.5% for China, and 37.5% for Russia. In fact, oligarchy, as an American phenomenon, is expanding at an exponential rate according to the US Congressional Budget Office: The share of total wealth of families in the top 10% of the distribution increased from 63% in 1989 to 72% in 2019, while that of families in the bottom half of the distribution fell from 4% to 2% over the same period, with wealth inequality much greater for people of color. As for the right to education, student loan debt was the largest component of total debt for families in the bottom 25% in the US (as of 2019).

5. Are the US **black or Hispanic residents of ghettos** better than the citizens who live in the social-class structure of modern Russian or Chinese society? It should not be forgotten that in the

21st century there are third world neighborhoods within the USA, with functionally illiterate black American citizens as well as those of other races, with the prospect of prison or death from drugs and guns. There are 1.6/ 2 million people in prison in the USA. And the percentage of prisoners per 100,000 is 716/ 664 in the USA, 329/ 471 in Russia, and 119/ 121 in China (according to World Prison Brief/ and to Prisonpolicy.org).

6. Is the US **liberal capitalism** better than China's mixture of state and liberal capitalism? Is the ideological cultivation of profit-driven entrepreneurship, which contributes to competition and overconsumption in the West, preferable to the moral value system of the spiritual tradition, Confucianism, which contributes to social cohesion and cultural development in China?

7. Why is the Reigning Parliamentary Republic of **Britain**, with head of state the hereditary King and the House of Lords with some hereditary lords, more democratic than the Federal Semi-Presidential Republic of Russia with head of state the elected President and the State-run Duma with elected members?

As a reminder, **Britain which today leads the way in the name of human rights in Ukraine** can be described by a partial list of its actions as follows:

(i) Fought the **opium wars of 1839 and 1856**. Britain demanded the legalization of the opium trade, after it flooded China with opium. In the 2nd opium war, France also participated. For good reason, Chinese suspicion of the West has grown since that time.

(ii) By 1922 Britain ruled about a quarter of the world's population by **massacring dissidents and using concentration camps**. A few examples are: The Boer Genocide in South Africa (1900), the Amritsar Massacre (1919), the Bengal Famine (1943), the sexual abuse and torture during the Mau Rebellion (1955), the beatings, mock drownings and executions of Cypriots (1959).

(iii) **Queen Elizabeth**, as former head of state, refused to grant a pardon to the Greek Cypriots condemned to be hanged because they were fighting for their independence from Britain.

Queen Elizabeth, as head of state, knighted former British Prime Minister Anthony Blair, a proven liar, co-responsible for the murder of hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis as well as the illegal use of bombing against the then Yugoslavia.



(iv) For 18 consecutive years, the famous '**Independent Justice**' of England has not extradited to Greece a convicted member of the judicial circuit, (convicted of money laundering) while it decided to extradite imprisoned Julian Assange (founder of Wikileaks) to the Americans. In short, England covers judicial crimes, and condemns investigative journalism.

(v) Today, 44% of Britons, polled by YouGov, said they were proud of their country's **colonial history**, and 43% believed the British Empire was constructive for everyone.

Given this evidence, is it credible to believe that **British colonialism once and Anglo-Saxon imperialism today** aim to export the values of Western civilization, aim at the "white man's debt" according to the British? Or are they in fact intended to seek markets and sources of raw materials, and to enforce Britain's sovereignty by all means? To confirm their 'superiority' and enhance their national self-satisfaction?

8. More generally, what were the consequences of **Western colonialism in Africa**? The 'civilized' West (Britain, France, Italy, Portugal, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Spain) after dividing Africa into areas of control (Berlin conference 1885) indulged in exploitation of the natives and local wealth (minerals, wool, cotton, oil). Western 'civilization' consisted of torturing and enslaving the inhabitants for the exploitation of the mineral wealth and the natives of Africa by the West. Decolonization started mainly after WWII. The independence of the Indians from Britain and the Indonesians from the Netherlands in 1947, the Vietnamese from France in 1954, the Cypriots from Britain in 1960, and the Algerians from France in 1962 led to the emergence of the so called Third World. This was followed by the American stage of **neo-colonialism**, in which Western capital is used to exploit rather than benefit the less developed regions of the world. The independence of African countries from Western colonialists was followed by Western-instigated destabilization of African governments and the imposition of dictatorships, civil strife, subjugation to private natural resource extraction companies, poverty, hunger, disease, lack of water and medicine. For example, cobalt for batteries is mined by children, and millions of carats of diamonds are mined annually worth billions of euros (from Congo, Namibia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and South Africa) exploited by Europe and the US, while 50% of the population of Africa lives in extreme poverty according to the UN.

The American political scientist Samuel **Huntington** aptly said: "*The West dominated the world not by the supremacy of its ideas or values or religion, but by its supremacy in the application of organized violence. Westerners often forget this fact, non-Westerners never.*"

### **THE 'DEMOCRATIC' EUROPEAN UNION (EU)**

Unfortunately, there are many examples of political manipulation of the Judiciary and the press throughout the EU, exploitation of the poorest by the richest EU member states, as well as imbroglia and corruption. Here are a few of them:

In **Slovakia**, the murder of journalist Ján Kuciak (2018) revealed a network of high-ranking politicians and members of the judiciary associate with the organized crime.

In **Poland**, laws were passed that prevent the impartial functioning of justice (review of final decisions, disciplinary action for dissenting judges).

In **Hungary**, an Emergency Law was adopted allowing, by decree, indefinite rule.

In **Bulgaria**, the problem of widespread corruption, wiretapping and extensive surveillance is well known.

In **Latvia** today approximately 1/4 of the inhabitants (mainly Russian speakers) are deprived of electoral and political rights.

More generally in the **Baltic countries** basic principles of law are violated, such as dismissal of teachers who are not "loyal to the state", gender and minority discrimination in schools and in jobs. The EU in 2004 admitted the Baltic countries as its members, although they were former members of the Soviet Union on the border of Russia, and although these countries did not meet the criteria for entry into the EU. The justification was their 'democratization' efforts. However, it is clear that 20 years later Baltic countries are anything but democratic. Moreover, a consequence of joining the EU was their entry into NATO, breaking a promise to the Russians in the context of *the 2+4 Treaty (1990)*.

**Greece**, the cradle of Western civilization, ranks 108<sup>th</sup> in press freedom out of a total of 180 countries and is included among the "imperfect democracies".

In **Italy**, the so-called "Operation: Clean Hands" resulted in the suicide of politicians, industrialists and businessmen after their criminal actions were discovered. More than half the members of the Italian parliament were indicted.

**Germany**, the country with the most iniquitous history, a country that wants to play the role of 'teacher' in Europe, has become wealthy and continues to grow wealthier because it (i) has not paid its huge debts for 8 decades now, and (ii) bribes and cheats shamelessly in order to promote its products, often at the expense of citizens' health. Its profits from press scandals has led to incalculable damage: Ferrostaal Group for the submarine scandal, Leopard for tanks scandal, Hochtief for tax evasion, Siemens for bribing politicians and organizations throughout the West, Volkswagen for misrepresentation of emissions of nitrogen oxides. Consistent with its scandals, only after more than ten years of stalling Germany signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC, 2005), unlike the 161 countries that signed it almost immediately. Interestingly, Germany wants Putin on trial for war crimes, while Germany covered up most of its own WWII criminals and refuses to pay its own war crimes debts (proved at the Nuremberg Trials) *violating the international treaties of Paris and London* for 8 decades.

Examples of the application of **double standards** within the EU:

1. **Greece** entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (at Germany's behest) in order to repay its debt, an agreement that made Greece essentially a debtor colony. In contrast, hypocritically **Germany** refuses to pay its own historic debt with arrogance, *violating the Paris agreement (1946)*, without any consequence. Notably, Germany's debt to Greece (Reparations, Compensations and Occupational Loan) from WWII, due to the fact that it exterminated 13% of the Greek population and destroyed 1770 Greek villages and towns, is far greater than the debt of Greece to the entire EU.

Furthermore, we forget the suffering Germany caused during the two World Wars it initiated, and then we allow it to rearm. In fact, it is now American troops who are moving from the territory of Germany to the east. In short, we are *violating the Yalta Agreement to "annihilate German*

*militarism, so that Germany can never again threaten world peace"*, even after the 2 World Wars which resulted in the loss of 140 million people.

2. Moreover, we are arming Ukraine with a neo-Nazi regime, against our former ally Russia which freed us from Nazi Germany. In other words, today we are making our former allies enemies and our former enemies allies. We identify with the AXIS powers (Germany, Japan) and support a neo-Nazi regime against our former ALLIES (Russia, China). It should be noted that the president of Ukraine Zelensky "honorarily" named a brigade of the Ukrainian army after the Nazi division Edelweiss, infamous for the massacres it carried out in European countries and especially in Greece. The sensitivity of the West towards the **Ukraine regime** is strange, particularly if we consider the local political power of the neo-Nazis and their previous crimes against their Russian-speaking compatriots and other ethnic minorities in eastern Ukraine. The relevant question is: why don't the US and the EU show similar sensitivity towards the **Greek Cypriots**? It should be reminded that Turkey invaded the island of Cyprus in 1974 killing 3 thousand, displacing 120 thousand, and making 150 thousand Cypriots refugees, and that Turkey still today occupies 36.2% of Cyprus. It should also be restated that Cyprus is a member of the EU and ally of the US! As Kissinger once said, *"It may be dangerous to be America's enemy, but to be America's friend is fatal"*.

### **EU in relation to US and NATO:**

On the one hand, with the perennial **rivalry of the West** (mainly from the US with the EU stragglers to keep up) **against Russia and China**, the division of the planet has once again been achieved, with more than half the population of the Earth against us (Russia, China, Arab and African countries, India, Central and South American countries). And these are countries that do not forget their suffering as European colonies or as American-inspired dictatorships.

On the other hand, the Russian-Ukrainian war has revealed that the US is exploiting the participation of EU member countries in NATO, against the interests of Europe. Examples are the destruction of the Nord Stream pipeline by Ukrainian operatives with the knowledge of the US, which resulted in a tragic energy crisis in Europe, as well as the sanctions against Russia which are leading to the gradual economic suicide of the EU. **NATO** was created as a military defense alliance of the West, against the military alliance of the communist states of Eastern Europe (*Warsaw Pact*). With the collapse of the Eastern Bloc in 1991, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved and

since then NATO has had no reason to exist as a defense alliance. Since then, NATO has become a **global sheriff**. Shouldn't the EU become independent in order to have strategic autonomy on the international stage? Isn't it time to stop participating in interventions to change 'disliked' regimes and in expansionist activities in Russia's neighboring countries?

### **Democratic deficit:**

The following are a few examples of democratic deficit in the EU.

1. Lack of a clear opposition; lack of a European Constitution; appointment of the EU executive (i.e. the Commission) by the governments of the member states and not direct election by the citizens; limited regulatory authority of the European Parliament; staffing of top positions of executive and legislative power **in the absence of citizen involvement**; lack of accountability of institutions such as the European Central Bank, which follows German directives. The consequence is the absence of legitimization of the processes of central institutions and the decisions of the EU by the citizens of the member states. One wonders, is the democratic deficit greater in Russia and China than in the EU?
2. For a decade the European authorities (following a German directive) have been implementing austerity programs that are affecting millions of citizens across Europe. Their authoritarian, anti-democratic way of imposing themselves on the 'unruly' EU member states does not respect human rights. It is now widely accepted that in order to save European banks, Greece sacrificed itself by implementing **anti-national and anti-social policies**. The 'support' from the EU during the economic crisis in Greece, consisted of an order for privatization, cutting wages, pensions and social benefits, reduction of labor costs. The result was the absolute liberalization of the market, the deregulation of work, the dissolution of the welfare state and the sale of Greek state property in the name of debt reduction. The EU's 'intelligent' economic policy for debt reduction, not only impoverished Greece but also increased its debt! In 2009, Greece's per capita income represented 95.3% of the corresponding European average, while in 2021 it represented 64.6%. Greek debt was €298 billion (126.8% of GDP in 2009) pre-Memorandum and rose to €400.3 billion (190.5% of GDP in 2022), despite the country's loss of national sovereignty. Greece unemployment rate for 2019 was 17.31%. And it is not only Greece which suffers. The entire European South is deindustrializing and its citizens are being impoverished.

3. The Bank of Greece is not a Public Organization but a private limited company. In fact, with the implementation of the Memoranda, the Bank of Greece was assigned to its lenders. With a neo-colonial type of Law, **the Bank of Greece is no longer accountable to Greece**, but to the European Central Bank. Thus, anonymous shareholders, nationals, and foreigners, become regulators of the Greek Economy. No one from the Greek State is allowed to examine the books of the Bank of Greece. Shareholders remain anonymous. The banking system is a group of speculators that in times of crisis survives with state recapitalizations, i.e. with citizens' sacrifices... Do we really want to export this economic policy of the EU to countries outside the West?

*"Democracy may have been in history an accident, a brief parenthesis"* wrote the liberal French philosopher Jean-Francois Revel (in Comment les démocraties finissent). Today we live in a decline both socio-politically and morally.

### **WHICH ARE THE VALUES THAT THE WEST WANTS TO EXPORT?**

One wonders, what are the values that the West would like to export to the rest of the world?

1. That giants like Amazon should control the economy? That small private businesses should be replaced by large ones in the name of globalization? That economic power should be concentrated in the hands of fewer and fewer people? That a few tycoons, the so-called 'Oligarchs of the West' should finance the pre-**election campaign** of candidate presidents, and rule the world in favor of their interests post-election?

2. That **terrorist acts**, are allowed? Terrorist acts, such as (a) the assassination of Iranian general Soleimani (along with 4 other Iranians and 5 Iraqis) by an American drone near Baghdad International Airport during the Obama presidency, and (b) the bombing of the Nord Stream undersea gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea, ordered by the White House and conducted by the CIA during Biden's presidency? (Seymour Hersh investigation)

3. That operations like the one codenamed "Olympics", that destroyed the centrifuges at Iran's nuclear center, are allowed? That the **use of cyber-weapons** such as the Stuxnet virus developed

by the US and Israel to attack Iran's nuclear program is allowed? The use of the Stuxnet virus may have been a less bloody solution than a US military invasion of Iran, but it is considered a cause of war. Are the US and Israel teaching the world to use cyber-attacks in future wars?

4. That it is permissible to **change borders** with wars, and to create states of diminished responsibility like Kosovo of ex-Yugoslavia and like the Occupied Cyprus? Today, 15 years after Kosovo declared its independence from Serbia (with US/NATO help) it is still a disputed territory, not recognized by the UN, with thousands of NATO soldiers on its territory to protect its inhabitants. As for the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus, which has been under illegal Turkish occupation since 1974, it is a lawless state that harbors criminals, fraudsters and drug dealers.

5. That there is no right to property? That **confiscation and appropriation of the property** of foreign countries in the West is allowed, in violation of the International Law? Examples are, the confiscation of (a) the dollar reserves of Venezuela, North Korea, Afghanistan and Iran in the US, and (b) the property of Russian State and Russian individuals in the US and the EU. This is not only tantamount to theft (as we are rightly accused) but also exposes all cross-border assets to retaliatory expropriations and is an incentive to de-dollarization, thus undermining one of the foundations of Western power. In short we are shooting ourselves in the foot.

6. That the influence of private interests in political decision-making centers is allowed, by the formation of specialized **lobbies**, resulting in scandals? An example is the Qatari bribes in which former and current members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are involved.

That commissioners are allowed to switch to lobbying positions and back again? It should be noted that 19,000 lobbying companies are included in the official register of the European Commission. One wonders, who rules us?

7. That parliamentarians can be bribed unhindered, and that there is no need for the independence of the **judiciary** with each government electing the highest judges? That justice can cover up scandals? That Prosecutors can obstruct the investigation of Independent Authorities, covering up scandals of the Government that appointed them?

8. That the Great Powers are allowed to **eavesdrop on** the leaders of other states with the use of spy software? Like German Chancellor Angela Merkel who was spied on by the Special Collection

Service under the responsibility of the US NSA and the CIA? Like, the conversations of the Greek Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis were illegally recorded by the American secret services during the period 2004-2005?

9. That **lawlessness** is allowed under the pretext of national security? That, Governments may eavesdrop on members of the European Parliament, military leadership, coalition and opposition members, journalists, and businessmen with Pegasus and Predator software?

10. That prosecutors against Corruption may be accused and silenced in order to avoid attribution of criminal responsibilities to political figures? That it is acceptable to charge the former head of the Corruption Prosecutor's Office in Greece with abuse of power, dereliction of duty and breach of judicial confidentiality in order to **cover up political scandals**?

11. That **censorship** is allowed, such as (a) shutting down the Russian channels and media in the West, so that only 'our truth' can be heard, and (b) canceling works by Tchaikovsky and banning all events with Russian cultural organizations?

12. That media freedom is banned and investigative journalism is prosecuted, with offenders suffering the fate of WikiLeaks founder **Julian Assange**? Assange rots in a British prison at the behest of the US, despite the dissent of the UN High Commission, and despite the world's largest media firms (New York Times, Guardian, El Pais, Le Monde, Der Spiegel) asking the US to drop the charges against him, stressing that "freedom of information is threatened".

13. That **health is commercialized** for the 'benefit' of the citizen? That the production of medical resources are outsourced to multinational corporations, and that states should be their customers? That thousands of lobbyists need to be employed in the decision-making centers (Brussels and Washington) to co-shape critical health decisions with the political leadership? That scandals like Novartis should be covered up?

14. That doctors, pharmacists and researchers can become the company's salesmen at conferences, and publish censored papers? That **corruption** in the health sector is allowed, such as bribery of health workers, fraud, and misuse of public money in drugs, vaccines, medical devices and contracts, billing for goods and services that were never performed, and even the deliberate damage of public equipment for the benefit of private centers?



15. That **education** does not need to be free and should rather be privatized? That the rich may be educated but not the poor? That specialized knowledge must be associated with the production process? That cooperations should infiltrate schools including higher education under the guise of sponsored programs? That applied rather than basic research should be funded?

Do we really want to export these decadent Western values of peace, freedom, equality, and democracy? Do we want all countries to implement OUR values? Do we want to export our 'law and order' across the globe, and back it at gunpoint?

### **WAR CRIMES AND CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY COMMITTED BY THE WEST**

Besides the abhorrent **German atrocities**, war crimes and crimes against the humanity during the two World Wars, here follow some of the prominent war crimes of the West that saw the light of day during and after WWII:

1. The dropping of the atomic bomb on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki** by the US in 1945, after the Allied victory against Nazi Germany in Europe, was a decision by President **Truman**. It caused the death of many tens of thousands of civilians on the spot, with even more dying later from the radiation. It has been considered a crime against humanity, and to this day, it remains the only use of an atomic bomb in a war confrontation.

2. The extermination of civilians in Germany, e.g. in **Hamburg** (1943) with 43,000 dead from Allied bombing, and in **Dresden** (1945) with 20,204 victims who were charred or suffocated by **Churchill's** bombing, would have been considered war crimes if the war had a different outcome. But war crimes are usually considered only those of the defeated. Vae victis!

3. Seymour Hersh is the American journalist who won the Pulitzer Prize for exposing the **My Lai** massacre in South Vietnam. In 1968 (during the **Johnson** presidency) American soldiers entered the village of My Lai in South Vietnam and gassed the unarmed villagers with automatic weapons, even throwing grenades at them. It is reported that 350-500 Vietnamese civilians were executed

(among them 173 children, 76 babies and 60 old men), and that many victims were slaughtered after being previously raped and mutilated.

4. In 1972 (during the **Nixon** presidency) South Vietnamese fighter planes, ordered by the US military, dropped napalm bombs on the village of **Trang Bang**. Victims were civilians, women and children who had fled to hide from the war conflicts. And this is one of the many examples of war crimes committed by the US in Vietnam. In the three years 1965-7 (during **Johnson's** presidency) the US Air Force dropped more bombs in Vietnam than it had dropped in World War II in total.

5. Seymour Hersh also exposed torture at Iraq's **Abu Ghraib** prison, winning his fifth George Polk Award. In more detail, in 2003 (during the presidency of G.W. **Bush**) almost all the prisoners were tortured, raped, sodomized, beaten to death by the 'liberators' of Iraq. Torture at Abu Ghraib was no different from that at other US detention centers such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Guantanamo Bay.

6. Defying all notions of law, US counterintelligence in a lethal airstrike killed unarmed civilians in the village of **Azizabad**, Herat Province of Afghanistan, on August 22, 2008 (during G.W. **Bush** presidency). The United Nations report that *“An investigation by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) found that approximately 90 civilians, including 60 children, were among those killed during military operations in the conflict-torn nation, in the western province of Herat.”*

7. Madeleine **Albright** (**Clinton's** Secretary of State) said that the death of 500,000 children in **Iraq** (even more than the number of children died in Hiroshima) was worth paying the price for. Hence, the war crimes charges against her. She also recommended the bombing of **Serbia** and Kosovo without any hesitation for the collateral casualties of civilians, women, and children, She also had been denounced for racist behavior towards Serbs, for ethnic hatred and disrespect for war victims.

8. In a recent article, Seymour Hersh (among others) provides information concerning the destruction of the **Nord Stream pipeline**, which he says was ordered by **Biden**, and which is an act of war against NATO's ally, Germany. He concludes that *"it is our country that is the biggest*

*purveyor of violence in the world. And that's thanks to the money the people in the military industrial complex make. I'm an American citizen and I'd like to help change that."*

9. In Reed Brody's article 'Prosecuting Putin. How the double standards of international justice are obstacles' one reads comments such as Valkenburgh's: "*Why not declare that **Reagan's** invasion of Grenada, a sovereign nation that posed zero threat to us, also makes him a war criminal, and the same for **Bush senior's** massacre in Panama, **Clinton's** invasion of Somalia and **Obama's** drone assassinations? "*

And these are just very few examples. Upon reading the 1<sup>st</sup> section of the present article, with the incomplete list of US military invasions of sovereign states and the CIA operations against 'undesirable' governments, one realizes that **most post-WWII US presidents** have been involved in war crimes.

## **RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR**

The following are the opinions of three famous American experts about the Russian-Ukrainian war today:

The distinguished American political scientist and professor of International Relations at the University of Chicago **John Mearsheimer** had argued from the beginning that the US and the EU bear the main responsibility for the Russian-Ukrainian war. He argued that the basis of the problem is the enlargement of NATO, in a broader strategy of removing Ukraine from Russia's orbit and integrating it into the West.

NATO's first round of eastward expansion took place in 1999 with the entry of the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland, despite earlier Western promises to the contrary. Back in 1998, when the US Senate approved this first round of NATO expansion, US diplomat George Kennan said "*I think this is a tragic mistake. There was absolutely no reason for it. No one was threatening anyone. "*

Let no one imagine that Kennan was a Russophile. He is the author of the "long cable" that pushed the West into the Cold War.

The second round of enlargement took place in 2004 with the entry of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Moscow protested strongly from the start, but the West turned a deaf ear.

In 2008, with the West declaring that Georgia and Ukraine would be the next countries to join NATO, President Putin declared that this would pose a "direct threat" to Russia. However, Washington supported a coup in Ukraine. As Mearsheimer writes, US Deputy Secretary of State Nuland and Republican Senator McCain participated in an anti-government demonstration, celebrated by Pyatt the US Ambassador to Ukraine. In response, Russian forces seized Crimea and incorporated it into Russia.

Mearsheimer notes that Ukraine should remain out of NATO, given that a basic principle of geopolitics is that "*Great Powers are sensitive to potential threats in their vicinity.*" Imagine, he writes, the fury in Washington if China created a powerful military alliance and tried to include Canada and Mexico in it. Russians believe that Ukraine has no right to join NATO. He concludes that the United States and its allies should abandon the plan to 'westernize' Ukraine and instead allow Ukraine to remain a neutral buffer state.

**Raymond McGovern**, a former CIA officer and CIA analyst from 1963 to 1990, states that without the cooperation of the media, the military-industrial complex (that Eisenhower originally described) cannot function. Eisenhower also said that the antidote to operation of this complex is a well-informed citizen. And McGovern finds that we are a long way from a proper update today. That the US government, the media, and the military-industrial complex, have a kind of three-way alliance in our time. Proof is the way the media treated Russiagate hoax for five years, and now treat Putin. President Biden's statement that most of the world is united behind us, citing a UN General Assembly vote, is disingenuous. The representatives of 1.425 billion Chinese, 1.424 billion Indians (Worldmeter 2023) and many others in Pakistan and other countries did not vote with the US and western powers supporting Ukraine.

McGovern notes that the problem is that the Soviet Union collapsed but NATO continued to exist, and even continued to expand east of Germany, including 14 new nations, which the US had officially promised the Russians not do. In addition, President Bush withdrew from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and President Trump withdrew from the INF Treaty. And the US is placing anti-ballistic missiles in Poland and Romania, ensuring a first-strike capability against Russia.

McGovern also notes that there is not one shred of evidence that Russia considered its unification with Crimea before the US-inspired coup of February 22, 2014. And one cannot unilaterally condemn Putin, hiding the rest of the story. We have to be very careful not to buy into what the Western media is saying.

McGovern received the Intelligence Commendation Medal upon his retirement in 1990, which he returned in 2006 to protest the CIA's involvement in torture.

The internationally renowned economics professor and Special Adviser to three UN Secretaries General **Jeffrey Sachs** argues that the reckless promises of NATO membership made by the US to Ukraine provoked Russia. He argues that the US must accept the existence of a multipolar world with mutual respect and adherence to the UN Charter. He does not believe in isolating Russia. He believes that Washington is undermining the dominance of the US dollar globally by politicizing the payments system. He points out that the US seized the reserves of Russia, Venezuela, Persia, Afghanistan... As a response it is reasonable to expect the creation of alternative payment systems such as those processed by Russia and China.

Since the West has sent military equipment worth hundreds of billions to Ukraine, countless protests have been held in many European countries. Polls show that large percentages of the population disagree with this kind of aid their governments provide to Ukraine. So **we are witnessing the conversion of public opinion**, which moves away from the propaganda of the West and approaches the opinion of experts like those mentioned above.

## IN CONCLUSION

Recurrent withdrawal of the US from treaties banning or controlling Conventional/Chemical/Nuclear Weapons, US participation in overthrowing democratically elected governments, the West's (US/NATO) perpetual wars without the slightest respect for international law and human rights, as well as the continuous expansion and strengthening of NATO's presence near the Russian borders violating contrary promises of the past, are some of the reasons why Russia distanced itself from the EU. The West's proxy war against Russia (the Russian-Ukraine conflict) was the straw that broke the camel's back. Not only did Russia move away from the West, but also most of the world (China, Arab and African countries, India, Central

and South American countries) rallied against the West, and the **BRICS** were strengthened. Of course, it was easy to turn these countries against NATO, the USA, and the EU since many of them do not forget their humiliation as colonies of European countries and their suffering under American-inspired dictatorships.

Why would the rapprochement of Russia and EU be beneficial for Europe as well as for the entire world? Russia belongs to Europe geographically, religiously (Christian), and culturally (from Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Tchaikovsky, and Stravinsky, to Eisenstein, Tarkovsky and the Bolshoi ballet). If Russia were to join the EU, it would cover Europe's energy and military needs while Europe would protect Russia from the unjustified aggression by NATO corporate interests. Unjustified, because Russia was the Allied power that liberated Europe from Nazi Germany, and never threatened the West thereafter. In the case of a partnership between Russia and the EU, the world would be multipolar, with 2 Western Great Powers. And the more numerous the Great Powers, the fewer the imperialist interventions in foreign states and the violations of international agreements, the better the balance of power and the security of our planet.

But with this proxy war, the possibility of Western cooperation with Russia is now unlikely. The West succeeded in **pushing Russia into the arms of China**. The US succeeded in disrupting the EU's good relations with Russia, and in **hurting the EU economy**. Europe is history's big loser, while the entire West is weakening. If the planet survives the current Western involvement in the Russian-Ukrainian war, the West will now be isolated with Europe in decline, while China, Russia, India, with much of Africa and Latin America will continue their socio-economic ascent.

Dr. Helen Savaki, Professor Emerita

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