

PUTIN, UKRAINE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

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TALK GIVEN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

28 MARCH 2017

EXPLANATIONS FOR THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINE CRISIS

1. Apologists Blaming the West: far left, Realists, anti-Americanism:
 - Richard Sakwa's 320-page book includes only 16 *Kyiv Post* sources, Putin is quoted multiple times - but never Poroshenko, and 3 sources for the Odesa May 2014 clashes are the *New York Times*, *Daily Mail*, and Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs White Book.
2. Geopolitical: Ukraine is a tug of war between EU/US and Russia.
3. Empire: Putin as an empire builder, and troublemaker.
4. Domestic Russian Factors: militocracy (siloviki) , KGB background to Putin, and Russian nationalism.
5. Geopolitical

RUSSIA IS PORTRAYED AS THE VICTIM

- Russia was humiliated and wronged since 1991 and Putin imposed a 'red line'.
- Putin reacted to events imposed upon Russia.
- The US is the EU's puppet master.
- Putin was forced to intervene to stop Ukraine joining NATO, evict the Black Sea Fleet from Sevastopol and end the Ukrainian nationalist threat to Russian speakers.
- The Crimea's return to Russia corrected a moral wrong that came with the collapse of the USSR: Crimea is 'the heartland of Russian nationhood' (Sakwa) and 'an indisputably Russian territory' (Menon and Rumer).

APOLOGIA FOR LAND GRAB OF CRIMEA

- Use 19th century imperialist historiography
- Far left and realists wrongly Claim that the Crimea was “always Russian”
- Their imperialist argument Assumes that Crimean history began in 1783
- If their argument is used for north and south America these continents have no history prior to European colonisation

THE DONBAS IS NOT A “CIVIL WAR”

1. 80% of Ukrainians believe The war is a product of Russian military aggression against Ukraine or Russian military support for separatist proxies
2. 85% of Ukrainians are convinced that Russia seeks to destroy Ukraine
3. The majority of Ukraine's Russian speakers support Kyiv, not Putin
4. two thirds of Ukraine's soldiers are Russian speakers
5. Therefore, the war is **not** a “civil war” between Russian and Ukrainian speakers.

PUTIN IS A WARMONGER AND HAS VIOLATED INTERNATIONAL LAW

1. Putin has launched four “small victorious wars” in Chechnya, Georgia, Ukraine and Syria
2. Committed Massive war crimes in Chechnya, Donbas and Syria
3. Violation of UN charter, OSCE, and many other international laws and treaties
4. Violated 1994 Budapest memorandum to which Russia was a signatory
5. Violated 1997 Ukraine-Russia inter-state treaty

INTERNATIONAL DIMENSIONS

- Biggest crisis in Europe since 1945.
- Western sanctions on Crimea will stay in place as long as the region is occupied.
- Western sanctions on the Donbas are linked to the February 2015 Minsk accords:
 - ✓ Russia: Political points of the Minsk agreement should be introduced before the political:
 1. Hold local elections.
 2. Ukraine would be federalised where the DNR-LNR would become like Republika Srpska.
 3. Ukraine would become “neutral” and end its support for EU and NATO membership.
 - ✓ Ukraine and the West: Security Aspects should be implemented first:
 1. Russian troops and mercenaries should be withdrawn and de-militarisation.
 2. Ukrainian-Russian border returned to Ukrainian control.

NATIONAL IDENTITY IS AT THE ROOT OF THE CRISIS

- ✓ National identity is at the root of the crisis.
- ✓ 72% (18% no) Ukrainians view Russia as the “aggressor” and 72% (20% no) believe Russia’s goal is to destroy Ukrainian independence and sovereignty.
- ✓ Russian view of Ukraine is consistent over the long term:
 1. Ukraine is an artificial construct and a failed state.
 2. East and south of Ukraine are “Russian” and were wrongly included in Ukraine by Lenin.
 3. Ukrainians are not a separate people: “I believe that Russians and Ukrainians form one people” (Putin, August 2015).
 4. Corrupt Jewish-Ukrainian oligarchs in cahoots with the West are tearing the Ukrainian *narod* from its natural desire to be part of the *Russkii Mir*.

IT'S NOT THE ECONOMY STUPID

“I have never met a Russian who accepted the notion of Ukraine as a totally separate state.”

Henry Kissinger

CNN, 13 March 2017

UKRAINOPHOBIA, WESTERN AND ZIONIST CONSPIRACIES, AND CRIME

- ✓ Ukrainophobia has hundreds of years of history going back to 1709 (Mazeppists), Petlura (1917-1921), Banderites (1940s), fascists (today) = all Ukrainians, irrespective of their political views, if they support a Ukrainian identity outside the *Russkii Mir*.
- ✓ Supporters of the Orange Revolution and Euromaidan are in the pay of a Western, anti-Russian conspiracy and are Russophobic fascists.
- ✓ Xenophobic denigration of Ukrainians encouraged human rights abuses and war crimes.
- ✓ Soviet Anti-Zionism was camouflaged anti-Semitism and has been revived by the DNR-LNR against Euromaidan leaders.
- ✓ Use of organised crime for geopolitical goals and massive money laundering.

RUSSIAN GREAT POWER NATIONALIST ATTITUDES TOWARDS UKRAINE

- Post-war Diaspora was dominated by Russian nationalists until the late 1970s and in the USSR, official Russian nationalism and the cult of Stalin and the Great Patriotic War dominated the mid-1960s-mid 1980s Brezhnev-Andropov-Chernenko era (when Putin joins the KGB).
- Stalin's rule and cult of Stalin as creator of a nuclear superpower dominated 50/69 years of the USSR and 17/25 years of Russia. Stalin's crimes against humanity are ignored or downplayed.
- ✓ All Russians support the annexation of the Crimea.
- ✓ Russians are divided over use of the military in the Donbas. But, 60% Russians support incorporation of the Donbas into Russia or the Donbas becoming an independent state.
- ✓ But, because Russian identity is grounded in language and culture they view Russian-speaking eastern-southern Ukraine as "Russian."

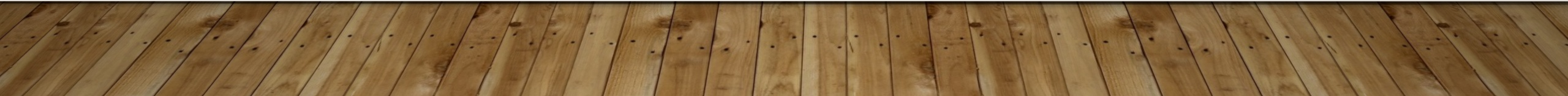
WHAT RUSSIANS BELIEVE

- ✓ Since 2005-2007, Russia believes it is at war with the West and it is the victim. The West should reset, not Russia.
- ✓ Russian Armed Forces General Chief of Staff Valery Gerasimov: the West is waging a hybrid war on Russia ("The World on the Brink of War," *Voenno-Promyshlennii Kuryer*, March 2017).
- ✓ 52% believe Ukraine is a Western stooge pursuing anti-Russian policies.
- ✓ 83% of Russians believe the Euromaidan was managed and organised by the West.
- ✓ Ukrainian *narod* is prevented from uniting with Mother Russia by the West and corrupt Jewish-Ukrainian oligarchs.
- ✓ Russia does not respect Ukraine as a sovereign state, and its right to control the Russian-speaking east-south and believes that Ukrainians are not a separate people.
- ✓ 70% Russians believe the Russian media is objectively covering the Crimea and Ukraine (22% no).

**I'M AS MAD AS HELL AND I'M NOT GOING TO
TAKE THIS ANYMORE!**

**Unpredictable
Putin is now
faced by an even
more
unpredictable
Trump.**

Network, 1976



DEMOCRATIC, DE-SOVIETISED UKRAINE AS A THREAT TO PUTIN'S AUTHORITARIAN, NEO-SOVIET RUSSIA

✓ National Identity:

1. An independent Ukraine undermines the basis for Tsarist Russian, Soviet and post-Soviet Russian historiography of Russia being the primary descendant from Kyiv Rus.
2. Ukrainian historiography views Kyiv Rus as the first Ukrainian state and Russians to have descended from Vladimir-Suzdal and Muscovy.

✓ Political:

1. A successful Ukrainian democracy is a threat to Putin's authoritarian regime.
2. Fear of contagion of revolution from Ukraine as a conduit of Western influences.
3. Independent Ukrainian Orthodox Church would dramatically reduce Russia's influence.