

Rohrabacher Confronts Nuland on Ukraine Lies

May 9—Victoria Nuland, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs,¹ lied to Congress in denying that there was armed neo-Nazi support for the ouster of Ukraine’s freely and fairly elected President Victor Yanukovich, in testimony before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 8. Reps. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) and Brad Sherman (D-Calif.) repeatedly questioned Nuland about neo-Nazis armed with guns in the Maidan, and their affiliations with neo-Nazi groups in other countries.

Below are excerpts of some tough questions to neocon Nuland, who used her two and a half hours of testimony to advance British plans to use President Obama to provoke Russia into a nuclear confrontation. We provide here the testimony of those attempting to prevent it, and conclude with Nuland’s escalation of the war danger by mooted hypothetical requests from member-countries in eastern Europe for NATO assistance under the Alliance’s Article 5—which requires NATO members to militarily assist any NATO member that is attacked.

‘Not Simply a Case of Russian Aggression’

Rep. Ed Royce (R-Calif.), Chair: I now go for two minutes to Mr. Rohrabacher, Chair of the Europe and Eurasia Subcommittee.

Rohrabacher: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just happen to be the chairman of this subcommittee at this particular moment in history. How interesting. I think that we should all understand that the situation in Ukraine is much murkier than what is being presented by the rhetoric that we hear every day. This is not simply a case of Russian aggression. This all began—when did this crisis begin? When did the chaos that we see begin? It began

when an elected president of Ukraine, who was probably elected in the fairest and most honest election that Ukraine has ever had, when that president, Yanukovich, was forced out of office by street violence. That’s when this chaos started. So let’s not say, “Oh, my goodness.”

The Russians are not responsible for all this problem that’s going on. The fact is, it started before any Russian intervention at all, when an elected president was thrown out, and, by gosh, the United States didn’t seem to be concerned that this elected person in a free election was being kicked out by—which basically was based on street violence that created a chaotic situation, which of course, we ended up with what? And when was that street violence? When did it start? It started when the elected president decided—decided, as he was rightfully elected to do—to make an economic agreement with Russia rather than the EU.

Now this is much, much murkier than what’s being presented. One thing is for sure, we should not be jumping into it. We should not be borrowing—and I’m looking forward to testimony of our witnesses today to find out exactly how much this is costing the American taxpayer. When we are going into debt by hundreds of billions of dollars a year, for us to borrow more money in order to give it to Ukraine in situations like this, doesn’t make much sense. But I’m anxious to hear what our witnesses have to say about how much this costing the United States. . . .

Cost to U.S. Taxpayers

Ambassador Nuland, what’s the bottom line for the cost of all of this to the United States?

Victoria Nuland: As I—I gave some numbers, I believe, in my opening with regard to—

Rohrabacher: Yes, you did.

Nuland: —Fiscal Year ’13 and ’14. So we’re at \$187 million, which is about where we’ve been in support for Ukraine over the last five years. We’ve in-

1. For more on Nuland, see Stuart Rosenblatt, “Mrs. Robert Kagan—The Real Victoria Nuland: Flack for the British Empire,” *EIR*, March 14, 2014.

creased it by another \$50 million and then the loan guarantee.

Rohrabacher: But with all the election observers—that includes the election observers?

Nuland: That includes the U.S. participation in the OSCE election observers.

Rohrabacher: So it's \$187 million.

Nuland: \$187 million plus \$50 million—

Rohrabacher: Plus \$50 million.

Nuland: —which was appropriated on April 1.

Rohrabacher: Okay.

Nuland: \$18 million from the defense budget for support for security services and border guards. But it's not that much more, with the exception of the \$50 million, than what we've been spending in Ukraine over the years.

Rohrabacher: Have we signed onto something with the World Bank guaranteeing any loans, for example?

Nuland: So, as you know, you've authorized the \$1 billion loan guarantee which scores at \$400 million for the Treasury. With regard to the World Bank, they're just at the beginning of what they might be able to do to support. So, I'm not aware of any new loans that they've executed. I think they're going to wait and see how the elections go.

Rohrabacher: Okay. So we've spent about \$200 million and we've got \$400 million that the—we've scored for the guaranteeing of that loan.

Nuland: Which will come back to the U.S. Treasury when the loan is paid back, as you know.

Rohrabacher: Right, when the loan is paid back.

Nuland: With interest.

Rohrabacher: Right. Shall we all hold our breath for that? So do we have preferential payback, then? Does that mean that all the other bills that the Ukrainian government owes, they're going to have to pay us that \$400 million first?

Nuland: Congressman, we'll have to get you the details on exactly what the terms of this are. I think it's with the Treasury to do.

A Legitimate Election

Rohrabacher: Yeah, Okay. I think that we know what the answer to that is, but I'd be happy to get it officially. Let me ask you this. When we were talking about the election, the best-observed election, Yanukovich, of course, was the one who was elected the last time, a very well-observed election, I might add. As a



State Department official Victoria Nuland was grilled by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on the Obama Administration's support for the neo-Nazi coup in Ukraine.

matter of fact, [Rep.] Chris Smith [R-N.J.] was there observing that election; gave that election a very big plus. Yanukovich was elected, so he does represent a significant point of view in that country. Is there someone from his party who is going to be on the ballot?

Nuland: In fact, his party, the Party of Regions, is fielding 4 of the 23 candidates who are registered. Communists are also there. Every single color of the political spectrum in Ukraine and every region is represented among the 23 candidates. So there's somebody for everybody to vote for.

Rohrabacher: So it's better—it's more than just the best-observed election. It's a legitimate election.

Nuland: That is what the OSCE assesses.

Rohrabacher: Right. Well, we did have an election. We did have a legitimate election before, and the elected president was removed after we had major street violence in reaction to his decision of going with an economic agreement with Russia, rather than the EU.

About that street violence that happened that led to this, Mr. Yanukovich's removal, there were pictures of people running around with these that we were told were neo-Nazis. Were there neo-Nazis in those efforts—street violence that led to Mr. Yanukovich's removal?

Nuland: First of all, the vast majority of those who participated on the Maidan were peaceful protesters. If you had a chance to see the pictures, some of—many of



Rep. Dana Rohrabacher: "I think that we should all understand that the situation in Ukraine is much murkier than what is being presented by the rhetoric that we hear every day. This is not simply a case of Russian aggression."

us visited, including many members here, there were mothers and grandmothers and veterans and every—however—

Rohrabacher: Yeah, let me note that I have—I saw—

Nuland: —however, however—

Neo-Nazi Violence

Rohrabacher: —before you go on, I saw those pictures as well. I also saw a lot of pictures of people throwing firebombs at groups of policemen who were huddled over in a corner, with people shooting into the ranks of police. So yes, there were mothers with flowers, but there were also very dangerous street fighters who were engaged in those demonstrations. The question is: Were there neo-Nazi groups involved in that?

Nuland: There were, as I said, almost every color of Ukraine was represented, including some—including some ugly colors.

Rohrabacher: The answer—the answer is yes, then.

Nuland: But if I could say that with regard to the violence, all of those incidents are subject to investigation, notably including the deadly sniper incident in February, and there is good evidence to believe that there were outside agitators involved in that.

Rohrabacher: Was there any indication that there were guns being involved with the anti-government demonstrators at that time?

Nuland: There is no question that as the protests became more and more virulent and as the response of Yanukovich's police became more and more brutal, the tensions and the potential for use of weapons escalated

on both sides—

Rohrabacher: —on both sides.

Nuland: —which was why we were so intent on—

Rohrabacher: That's correct.

Nuland: —a political settlement in February.

Rohrabacher: One last question before my time is totally up, and that is: Were there—the neo-Nazi groups that we're talking about here, which again were not dominating this. There were very many very good people, like you say, out demonstrating against this deal with Russia. They wanted to go with more of a European country than a pro-Russian country. But those people who were not the good guys, but were part of that effort to push that country in that direction, were any of those neo-Nazi groups affiliated with any other Nazi groups in other countries?

Nuland: Congressman, what I can tell you, I don't know what the answer to that specific question with regard to the early period is. What I can tell you is that in the violence and separatism that we have seen in the recent months, we've also seen recruiting on the neo-Nazi and fascist sites in Russia for volunteers to go participate in the seizing of buildings in eastern Ukraine. And the Ukrainians report stopping very large numbers of such people at the Ukrainian-Russian borders.

Rohrabacher: Oh, I'm sure. But you haven't seen any evidence that there are people in western Europe, neo-Nazi groups that were supporting their brothers in Ukraine?

Nuland: I don't have any information to corroborate that, but I would refer you to the Ukrainians as they investigate these incidents of violence.

Rohrabacher: Thank you.

Whose Independence Do We Support?

Royce: Yes. Mr. Brad Sherman [D-Calif.].

Rep. Brad Sherman: One of the thorniest issues in foreign policy is self-determination versus territorial integrity. We've supported the independence of South Sudan, and accepted the independence of Eritrea. In Europe, we supported the independence of each of the republics of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We supported the independence of each of the republics of the Federation of Yugoslavia. We created the independence of Kosovo. On the other hand, we oppose the independence of northern Kosovo. We oppose the independence of the Krajina region of Croatia, which was inhabited by Serbs. We oppose the independence of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. And we, of course, oppose

the independence, or any other action with Crimea. Seems kind of haphazard.

In Moscow, they note that although I've identified like 30 different decisions we've had to make in Europe that seem haphazard, every single one of those decisions is the anti-Moscow decision. What are our policies? When are we in favor of territorial integrity? When are we in favor of self-determination? When are we cheering on the people of South Sudan or Croatia? When are we opposing? Why do we oppose the independence of northern Kosovo? Is it haphazard, Ambassador?

Nuland: Congressman, thanks for the opportunity to remind that in keeping with the UN Charter, the United States and our European allies, and most civilized nations on the planet, oppose the changing of borders by force. And that's what happened in Crimea—or that was the effort in Crimea. With regard to Kosovo—

Sherman: Are you saying that northern Kosovo is not—that Kosovo wasn't force, South Sudan wasn't force?

Nuland: Kosovo was, first and foremost, a victim of a marauding military operation of ethnic cleansing by [former president of Serbia and Yugoslavia, Slobodan] Milosevic which, as you know, the international community spent more than a decade trying to pacify—

Sherman: Well, there was certainly—

Nuland: And the decision on independence was the result of a referendum of the people.

Sherman: The independence of several of the Yugoslav republics was achieved by force. It's not like every time we have supported independence it was some clean, bloodless operation. But I'll agree with you, the people of Kosovo have survived some terrible onslaughts that caused the change.

Let me shift to another issue. Has the Right Sector militia been disarmed? And has Kiev tried very hard to disarm them?

Nuland: The government of Ukraine has made a massive effort to disarm the Pravyi Sektor; to lock up those leaders who have been found to use violence. They are also putting them on trial. They have also offered a weapons buyback program. And they're working very intensively in—

Sherman: How successful has that effort been?

Nuland: They have made significant progress. And there is more progress to make.

Sherman: The language law of 2012 in the Ukraine gave special treatment or security to those who speak Russian. There was an attempt to repeal that law. I be-



Rep. Brad Sherman: "In Moscow, they note that although I've identified like 30 different decisions we've had to make in Europe that seem haphazard, every single one of those decisions is the anti-Moscow decision. What are our policies?"

lieve that repeal was vetoed. Have the leaders of the Ukraine committed to their own people, or committed to the world that they are willing to keep that law in force, or are we in the United States in a situation where we suffer costs and disruption and danger because Kiev wants to repeal the language law?

Nuland: Well, as you said, Congressman, that effort to repeal the law was vetoed by acting President Turchynov. The Ukrainian Constitutional Commission and the current government have made broad statements to the effect that language rights will be protected in the constitutional reform process.

Will the U.S. Subsidize Natural Gas to Ukraine?

Sherman: Let me squeeze in one more question. Some have proposed that we export natural gas to the Ukraine. The Ukrainians can't afford to buy that natural gas for \$10 a unit from Russia. The Japanese bid \$15 or \$16 per unit for natural gas that they purchase on the world market, which means anybody exporting natural gas from the United States would sell it for the world market price. Do you know of a pot of money that would allow us to subsidize Ukrainian natural gas purchases that came from us and from our private companies? Do you got tens of billions of dollars lying around to do that?

Nuland: Congressman, it's not actually going to go that way. The way—what we're working on to help Ukraine with its energy independence are a number of things. The fastest short-term step is to help with reverse flows of gas from the European market into Ukraine. We've worked intensively with the EU, with Slovakia, with Ukraine to get that reverse flow going.



Rep. Ron DeSantis: “Does the administration assess that the actions of Russia may require us to re-look at our force posture in Europe and our requirements for future deployments, exercises, and training in the region?”

It’s also coming now from Poland, from Hungary—

Sherman: And—

Nuland: —but over the longer term, it goes to Ukraine’s own resources [inaudible]. . . .

Sherman: Ambassador, you haven’t—here in Congress, we’re all talking about exporting U.S. gas to the Ukraine, so that was the question. But we’ll have to go on to someone else.

NATO’s Article 5

Rep. Ron Desantis (R-Fla.): Ambassador Nuland, does the administration assess that the actions of Russia may require us to re-look at our force posture in Europe and our requirements for future deployments, exercises, and training in the region?

Nuland: Congressman, I would say that the NATO reassurance mission that you’re seeing begin to deploy out and which I spoke about at the beginning already constitutes a change in the way we’re postured, that reassurance and Article 5 have come back to the forefront of the Alliance’s business. With regard to the medium and the long term, I think it depends on what we see from Russia and whether we’re able to deescalate this.

Desantis: So at this time, there’s no either commitment or plan to have a presence on a more permanent basis in some of the region?

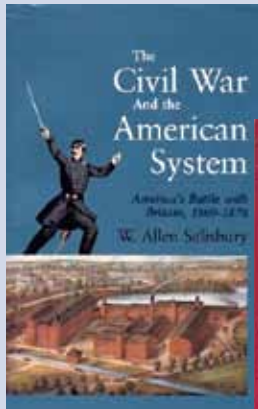
Nuland: I think that we are open to doing what is necessary as we see this situation evolve. But I would simply say that it has already caused the Pentagon to look at plans that it had about how to posture globally, and they’re working on that now.

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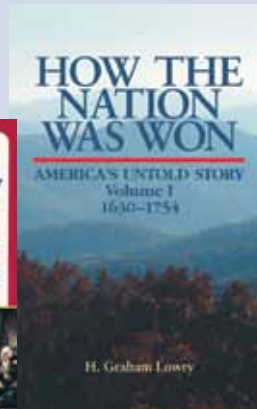
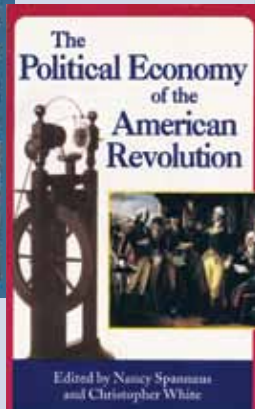
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