

Merkel, Obama Join Neo-Cons As Danger of World War Rises

by Helga Zepp-LaRouche

Dec. 5—The world is dangerously close to the brink of thermonuclear world war. If we do not change the course of the Obama Administration, the British government, NATO, and the EU, toward Russia and China, an uncontrolled escalation could wipe out the human race. Unfortunately, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, since her disastrous speech in Sydney, Australia, on Nov. 17, joined Obama as one of the main spokespersons for this confrontation policy.

Russia's President Putin responded to this strategic situation in his annual address to the Federal Assembly on Dec. 4, with an unusually sober analysis. And people should look closely at the text of this [speech](#) and think about it, rather than listening to the chorus from the lock-step media and the NATO flunkys that write for it.

Speaking in the St. George Hall of the Kremlin before representatives of both houses of parliament and other dignitaries, Putin passionately appealed to the Russian people to defend Russia's existence, just as they had done in the Great Patriotic War against Hitler.

Concerning the sanctions, he stressed that even without the Ukraine crisis, the United States and its allies would have found some other pretext to curb Russia's growing capacities. "The policy of containment was not invented yesterday," he said. "It has been carried out against our country for many years, always, for decades, if not centuries. In short, whenever someone thinks that Russia has become too strong or independent, these tools are quickly put into use."

Putin recalled—just hours after the start of a re-



Bundesregierung/Bergmann

Chancellor Merkel at the NATO summit in Wales, Sept. 4, 2014. She is now shoulder-to-shoulder with the NATO leaders who are trying to engineer regime-change in Russia.

newed terrorist attack in Grozny, Chechnya—the separatist wars in Chechnya, in which the West always described these murderers with blood on their hands as “rebels” and received them with high honors. “The support for separatism in Russia from across the pond,” he said, “including information, political and financial support provided by the special services, was absolutely obvious and left no doubt that they would gladly let Russia follow the Yugoslavia model of disintegration and dismemberment. It didn’t work. We didn’t allow that to happen. Just as it did not work for Hitler, with his misanthropic ideas, who set out to destroy Russia and push us back beyond the Urals. Everyone should remember how it ended.”

In an obvious reference to the situation in the EU, Putin added: “If for some European countries, national pride is a long-forgotten concept and sovereignty is too much of a luxury, true sovereignty for Russia is absolutely necessary for survival. I would like to emphasize this: Either we remain a sovereign nation, or we dissolve without a trace and lose our identity. Of course, other countries need to understand this too. All participants in international life should be aware of this.”

Opposition in Europe

It is important that now at least some people are speaking out against Merkel’s pursuit of confrontation, in which she is acting as a puppet of the war faction. Under the heading “War in Europe Again? Not in Our Name!” 60 distinguished figures from German political, economic, and cultural life directed an urgent warning to the German government, the Bundestag, and the media about the threat of war with Russia. The appeal was initiated by, among others, the former head of the Munich Security Conference, Horst Teltschik; former Chancellor Gerhard Schröder and former President Roman Herzog are among the signatories. The appeal states that every attempt historically to forcibly change Russia’s status as one of the recognized principal powers of Europe, was drowned in blood for those who attempted it, with the most recent being “Hitler’s megalomaniacal Germany, which set out in 1941 to murderously subjugate Russia.”

This statement implies clearly which tradition those calling for confrontation with Russia today represent. Faced with the danger that any war in Europe would



Russian President Putin addresses the Federal Assembly and other dignitaries, Dec. 4, 2014. He expressed Russia’s determination to remain a sovereign nation at all costs—despite efforts from the West to crush Russia as a great power.

come to the use of nuclear weapons, this comparison is indeed quite mild. Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico warned recently, at a forum organized by the newspaper *Hospodarske noviny*, that there is a great danger that the conflict between Ukraine and Russia will expand into a larger conflict, involving more than just those two countries. “The likelihood of military conflict is 70%. I am talking now about a large military conflict; I’m not talking about a conflict between Russia and Ukraine,” he said.

Victoria Nuland’s Role

The key figure coordinating the Ukraine crisis and confrontation with Russia is Victoria Nuland, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Europe and Eurasia, whose intercepted phone conversation with U.S. Ambassador to Kiev Geoffrey Pyatt, made a name for her in history. In this conversation (on Jan. 28, 2014), she informed Pyatt that Vitali Klitschko, who was being backed by Germany’s Konrad Adenauer Foundation as the next President of Ukraine, was undesirable, and that “our man Yats” (Arseniy Yatsenyuk) should get the post. Her additional statement, “F...k the EU,” revealed both her strange sexual preferences as well as her nasty manners. So much for the condition of democracy, in which elections are nothing but window dressing for the operation of “dark money”—in Ukraine as well as in the United States.



Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland, who was an advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney and is now the chief honcho for Russia and Eastern Europe in the Obama Administration, is married to neo-con theorist Robert Kagan. No wonder Obama's foreign policy is indistinguishable from that of Bush-Cheney!

Nuland is one of those in the Obama Administration whose profile explains why nothing has changed from the imperial orientation of the Bush-Cheney Administration to Obama, but on the contrary, the same policies have continued, getting even worse.

Nuland is married to the neo-con Robert Kagan, one of the authors of the “New American Century” doctrine, with which the neo-cons responded to the collapse of the Soviet Union—namely the idea of establishing an Anglo-American Empire along the lines of the British Empire. Kagan was later a co-founder of the American Committee for Peace in Chechnya (ACPC), which was founded in 1999 on the initiative of Zbigniew Brzezinski, Alexander Haig, Stephen Solarz, and 100 other neo-cons from both American political parties.

The ACPC and its successor organization, the American Committee for Peace in the Caucasus, have been busy since then supporting the separatists in Chechnya and the Caucasus, and conducting regime-change operations against Russia. Most likely, it was this network that Putin had in mind when he spoke of operations launched from “across the pond.”

Nuland was principal deputy foreign policy advisor to Vice President Cheney in 2004, at the time of the first “Orange Revolution” against Ukraine—and she boasted in December 2013 that \$5 billion had been spent on that since the end of the Cold War. In 2005, she was appointed by George W. Bush as the U.S. Ambassador to NATO for three years. As Assistant Secretary of State, she was, and is now, in charge of the

Obama Administration’s policy toward Ukraine and Russia. And it didn’t seem to bother Chancellor Merkel for very long that her own phone was tapped by the NSA, nor that the German-backed Klitschko was dumped in favor of Nuland’s “Yats.”

There is a temporal relationship, however between Merkel’s confrontational speech in Sydney, which was celebrated by the Anglo-American media as “the end of the German *Ostpolitik*,” and Nuland’s various visits to Kiev, Berlin, and the Baltic States. In October, Nuland traveled to

Berlin, where, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Aspen Institute, she gave a bloodthirsty speech in which she not only compared Putin’s actions in Crimea to the atrocities of ISIS in Mosul and the spread of Ebola in Africa, but also turned on full theatrical pathos for the benefit of the audience, which was composed of Berliners, who would therefore vividly remember the time of Europe’s division: “And that is precisely why we can and must work together on land, on sea, and in the air to make sure every member of our NATO family feels equally secure. Feels as secure as you feel here in Berlin. Whether that means funding our militaries, whether that means modernizing our forces and making sure that the equipment works, or whether it means demonstrating our resolve to use that equipment as necessary whether in Article 5 defense or globally.”

Using this equipment globally means, in so many words, waging thermonuclear war.

China Speaks Out

A day after Putin’s speech, a spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs told the Russian news agency TASS: “We watched the Russian President’s statement with great interest. Russia is our good neighbor and a comprehensive strategic partner. The level of trust and cooperation between our countries is very high.” She added, “We respect the road taken by the Russian nation, including its domestic and foreign policies. China is determined to keep building up the strategic partnership with Russia.”

One day later, President Xi Jinping said, at a two-

day conference of the People's Liberation Army, that the production of sophisticated military equipment must be accelerated.

In the United States, Lyndon LaRouche has demanded that Nuland be removed from office, because getting rid of this important go-between could at least stop the escalation to war.

As for Chancellor Merkel, she should either immediately stop the sanctions against Russia and return to peaceful cooperation, while also taking up the offer by President Xi Jinping to cooperate with other European nations and the United States in the development of the New Silk Road—or she should take an early retirement.

Translated from German by Susan Welsh

Documentation

Putin's Address to The Federal Assembly

Here are excerpts from President Vladimir Putin's Dec. 4 annual address to the Federal Assembly (the State Duma and the Federation Council) and other dignitaries. The full text of the official translation is at <http://eng.kremlin.ru/news/23341>. Subheads have been added.

What was this Ukrainian tragedy for? Wasn't it possible to settle all the issues, even disputed issues, through dialogue, within a legal framework and legitimately?

But now we are being told that this was actually competent, balanced politics that we should comply with unquestionably and blindfolded.

This will never happen.

We Will Never Relinquish Sovereignty

If for some European countries national pride is a long-forgotten concept and sovereignty is too much of a luxury, true sovereignty for Russia is absolutely necessary for survival.

Primarily, we should realize this as a nation. I would like to emphasize this: Either we remain a sovereign

nation, or we dissolve without a trace and lose our identity. Of course, other countries need to understand this, too. All participants in international life should be aware of this. And they should use this understanding to strengthen the role and the importance of international law, which we've talked about so much lately, rather than bend its standards to suit someone's strategic interests contrary to its fundamental principles and common sense, considering everyone else to be poorly educated people who can't read or write.

It is imperative to respect the legitimate interests of all the participants in international dialogue. Only then, not with guns, missiles or combat aircraft, but precisely with the rule of law will we reliably protect the world against bloody conflict. Only then, will there be no need to scare anyone with imaginary self-deceptive isolation, or sanctions, which are, of course, damaging, but damaging to everyone, including those who initiate them.

Speaking of the sanctions, they are not just a knee-jerk reaction on behalf of the United States or its allies to our position regarding the events and the coup in Ukraine, or even the so-called Crimean Spring. I'm sure that if these events had never happened—I want to point this out specifically for you as politicians sitting in this auditorium—if none of that had ever happened, they would have come up with some other excuse to try to contain Russia's growing capabilities, affect our country in some way, or even take advantage of it.

The policy of containment was not invented yesterday. It has been carried out against our country for many years, always, for decades, if not centuries. In short, whenever someone thinks that Russia has become too strong or independent, these tools are quickly put into use.

However, talking to Russia from a position of force is an exercise in futility, even when it was faced with domestic hardships, as in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Western Support for Separatism, Terrorism

We remember well how and who, almost openly, supported separatism back then and even outright terrorism in Russia, referred to murderers, whose hands were stained with blood, none other than rebels and organized high-level receptions for them. These "rebels" showed up in Chechnya again. I'm sure the local guys, the local law enforcement authorities, will take proper

care of them. They are now working to eliminate another terrorist raid. Let's support them.

Let me reiterate, we remember high-level receptions for terrorists dubbed as fighters for freedom and democracy. Back then, we realized that the more ground we give and the more excuses we make, the more our opponents become brazen and the more cynical and aggressive their demeanor becomes.

Despite our unprecedented openness back then and our willingness to cooperate in all, even the most sensitive issues, despite the fact that we considered—and all

No one will ever attain military superiority over Russia. . . . We will tell the truth to people abroad, so that everyone can see the real and not distorted and false image of Russia. We will actively promote business and humanitarian relations, as well as scientific, educational, and cultural relations. We will do this even if some governments attempt to create a new Iron Curtain around Russia.

of you are aware of this and remember it—our former adversaries as close friends and even allies, the support for separatism in Russia from across the pond, including information, political and financial support and support provided by the special services—was absolutely obvious and left no doubt that they would gladly let Russia follow the Yugoslav scenario of disintegration and dismemberment. With all the tragic fallout for the people of Russia.

It didn't work. We didn't allow that to happen.

Just as it did not work for Hitler with his misanthropic ideas, who set out to destroy Russia and push us back beyond the Urals. Everyone should remember how it ended.

Next year, we will mark the 70th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Our Army crushed the enemy and liberated Europe. However, we should not forget about the bitter defeats in 1941 and 1942 so as not to repeat the mistakes in the future.

In this context, I will touch on an international security issue. . . . Since 2002, after the U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the ABM Treaty, which was absolutely a cornerstone of international security, a strategic bal-

ance of forces and stability, the U.S. has been working relentlessly to create a global missile defense system, including in Europe. This poses a threat not only to Russia, but to the world as a whole—precisely due to the possible disruption of this strategic balance of forces.

I believe that this is bad for the U.S. as well, because it creates the dangerous illusion of invulnerability. It strengthens the striving for unilateral, often, as we can see, ill-considered decisions and additional risks. . . .

No one will ever attain military superiority over Russia. We have a modern and combat ready army. As they now put it, a polite, but formidable army. We have the strength, will and courage to protect our freedom.

We will protect the diversity of the world. We will tell the truth to people abroad, so that everyone can see the real and not distorted and false image of Russia. We will actively promote business and humanitarian relations, as well as scientific, educational, and cultural relations. We will do this even if some governments attempt to create a new iron curtain around Russia.

We will never enter the path of self-isolation, xenophobia, suspicion and the search for enemies.

All this is evidence of weakness, while we are strong and confident.

We Want Equal Partnerships

Our goal is to have as many equal partners as possible, both in the West and in the East. We will expand our presence in those regions where integration is on the rise, where politics is not mixed with economy, and where obstacles to trade, to exchange of technology and investment and to the free movement of people are lifted.

Under no conditions will we curtail our relations with Europe or America. At the same time, we will restore and expand our traditional ties with South America. We will continue our cooperation with Africa and the Middle East.

We see how quickly Asia Pacific has been developing over the past few decades. As a Pacific power, Russia will use this huge potential comprehensively.

Everyone knows the leaders and the drivers of global economic development. Many of them are our sincere friends and strategic partners.

The Eurasian Economic Union will start working in full on January 1, 2015. I'd like to remind you about its fundamental principles. The topmost principles are

equality, pragmatism and mutual respect, as well as the preservation of national identity and state sovereignty of its member countries. I am confident that strong cooperation will become a powerful source of development for all of the Eurasian Economic Union members....

Russia's Economy

... I propose a full amnesty for capital returning to Russia. I stress, full amnesty.

Of course, it is essential to explain to the people who will make these decisions what full amnesty means. It means that if a person legalizes his holdings and property in Russia, he will receive firm legal guarantees that he will not be summoned to various agencies, including law enforcement agencies, that they will not “put the squeeze” on him, that he will not be asked about the sources of his capital and methods of its acquisition, that he will not be prosecuted or face administrative liability, and that he will not be questioned by the tax service or law enforcement agencies. Let's do this now, but only once. Everyone who wants to come to Russia should be given this opportunity.

We all understand that the sources of assets are different, that they were earned or acquired in various ways. However, I am confident that we should finally close, turn the “offshore page” in the history of our economy and our country. It is very important and necessary to do this.

I expect that after the well-known events in Cyprus and with the on-going sanctions campaign, our business has finally realized that its interests abroad are not reckoned with and that it can even be fleeced like a sheep....

Today we are faced with reduced foreign exchange proceeds and, as a consequence, with a weaker national currency, the ruble. As you are aware, the Bank of Russia has switched to a floating exchange rate, but this does not mean that the Bank of Russia has withdrawn from controlling the exchange rate, and that the ruble may now be the object of unchecked financial speculation.

I'd like to ask the Bank of Russia and the Government to carry out tough and concerted actions to discourage the so-called speculators from playing on fluctuations of the Russian currency. In this regard, I'd like to point out that the authorities know who these speculators are. We have the proper instruments of influence, and the time is ripe to use them.

Of course, a weaker ruble increases the risk of a

short-term surge in inflation. It's imperative that we protect the interests of our people, first and foremost, those with low incomes, and the Government and the regions must ensure control over the situation on the food, medicine and other basic goods markets. I'm sure this can be done without any problem, and it must be done.

A weaker national currency also increases the pricing environment and the competitiveness of our companies. We take this factor into account in our policy of import substitution (at least, where it's appropriate and necessary). Within three to five years, we must provide our customers with high-quality and affordable medicines and food that are produced mostly in Russia....

We must also lessen our critical dependence on foreign technology and industrial goods, including in the machine-tool building and instrument-making industries, power engineering, and the production of equipment for field development, including on the Arctic shelf. Our commodities and infrastructure companies can seriously help our producers in this sphere. When implementing large oil, energy and transport projects, they must rely above all on domestic producers and promote demand for their products....

Despite any external restrictions, we must increase our annual investment to 25% of GDP by 2018. What does this mean? I'll explain it with just a few words.

It means that we must invest as much as we save. Our savings must work for the national economy and development, rather than the export of capital. To be able to do this, we must seriously strengthen the stability of our banking system—the Central Bank has been working towards this end quite persistently—and also reduce the dependence of the national financial market on external risks.

I propose using our reserves (above all, the National Welfare Fund) to implement a program for recapitalization of leading domestic banks, with funding to be provided under clearly specified conditions to be funneled into the most significant projects in the real economy at affordable interest rates. Furthermore, banks will have to introduce project financing mechanisms¹....

This year, as has been the case many times during crucial historical moments, our people have demon-

1. This proposal for directed credit resembles one of economist and presidential advisor Sergei Glazyev's proposals, although Glazyev calls for the Russian Central Bank to provide these credits, rather than the Welfare Fund. See [EIR](#), May 2, 2014.

strated national enthusiasm, vital endurance and patriotism. The difficulties we are facing today also create new opportunities for us. We are ready to take up any challenge and win.

Open Letter

War in Europe Again? Not in Our Names!

The open letter to the German government, parliament, and media, excerpted here, was signed by more than 60 prominent German personalities and published in the weekly Die Zeit on Dec. 5. The initiators were Horst Teltschik (CDU), advisor to then-Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the time German of reunification; Walther Stützle (SPD), former Secretary of State for the Ministry of Defense; and Antje Vollmer (Greens), former Bundestag Vice President. Teltschik said, in motivating the appeal, "We are giving a political signal that the justified criticism of Russia's Ukraine policy should not wipe out all the progress that we have made in the past 25 years in relations with Russia."

Nobody wants war. But North America, the European Union, and Russia are inevitably driving towards war if they do not finally halt the disastrous spiral of threats and counter-threats. All Europeans, including Russia, are jointly responsible for peace and security. Only those who do not lose sight of this goal can avoid fatal actions.

The Ukraine conflict shows that the quest for power and domination has not been overcome. In 1990, at the end of the Cold War, we all hoped that it would be. But the success of the détente policy and the peaceful revolutions allowed people to become lethargic and careless. In both East and West. The Americans, Europeans, and Russians all lost, as their guiding principle, the idea

of permanently banishing war from their relationship. Otherwise it is impossible to explain either the West's eastward expansion without simultaneously deepening cooperation with Moscow—a policy which Russia sees as a threat—or Putin's annexation of Crimea in violation of international law.

At this moment of great danger for the continent, Germany has a special responsibility for the maintenance of peace. Without the will for reconciliation of the people of Russia, without the foresight of Mikhail Gorbachov, without the support of our Western allies, and without the prudent action by the then-Federal gov-

ernment, the division of Europe would not have been overcome. To allow German unification to evolve peacefully was a great gesture, shaped by the wisdom of the victorious powers. It was a decision of historic proportions.

Once the division of Europe was overcome, permanent peace and security, from Vancouver to Vladivostok, should have developed, as had been agreed by all the 35 heads of state and government of the OSCE member states in November 1990, in the "Charter of Paris for a New Europe."... This goal of postwar policy has not been achieved to this day. People in Europe are

forced to live in fear once again.

We, the undersigned, appeal to the Federal Government of Germany to assume its responsibility for peace in Europe. We need a new policy of détente in Europe. This is only possible on the basis of equal security for all and mutually respected partners. The German government is not pursuing a go-it-alone policy, as long as it continues to call, during this stalemate, for calm and dialogue with Russia. The need of the Russians for security is as legitimate as is that of the Germans, the Poles, the Baltic States, and the Ukrainians.

We must also not push Russia out of Europe.... Since the Congress of Vienna in 1814, Russia has been a recognized global player in Europe. All who have tried to change that have failed violently, the last being the megalomaniacal Germany of Hitler, which set out in 1941 to murderously subjugate Russia.



We call upon the members of the German Bundestag, delegated by the people as their political representatives, to deal appropriately with the seriousness of the situation. . . . Whoever is constructing a bogeyman, putting the blame on only one side, is exacerbating tensions, when the signals should be for de-escalation. . . .

We appeal to the media, to more scrupulously adhere to their obligation to provide unbiased reporting than they have hitherto done. Editorialists and leading commentators are demonizing entire nations, without fully taking their histories into account. Any journalist experienced in foreign affairs would understand the Russians' fear, since members of NATO in 2008 invited Georgia and Ukraine to join the Alliance. It is not about Putin. Heads of state come and go. What is at stake is Europe. . . .

On October 3, 1990, the Day of German Reunification, Federal President Richard von Weizsäcker said: "The Cold War has been overcome, and freedom and democracy will soon be in place in all countries. . . . This is a challenge. We can achieve it, but we can also fail. We are facing the clear alternative to unite Europe or fall back again into painful historical examples of nationalist conflicts in Europe."

Until the Ukraine conflict, we here in Europe thought we were on the right track. Today, a quarter of a century later, Richard von Weizsäcker's warning is more apropos than ever.

[In addition to the initiators, other signers include:]

Dr. Eckhard Cordes, chairman of the Committee on Eastern European Economic Relations for German Industry and Business (Ost-Ausschuss)

Eberhard Diepgen (CDU), former mayor of Berlin, 1989, and later the first mayor of reunified Berlin, December 1990

Dr. Klaus von Dohnanyi, former German Science Minister and mayor of Hamburg, 1981-88

Dr. Roman Herzog, CDU, former German President, 1994-99

Dr. Lothar de Mazière, served as the only elected Prime Minister of East Germany in 1990, after the fall of the Berlin Wall and before the reunification that year.

Prof. Klaus Mangold, a leader of the small and medium-sized industrial firms (Mittelstand) in Baden-Württemberg.

Gerhard Schröder, former Chancellor of Germany, 1998-2005.

Translated from German by EIRNS

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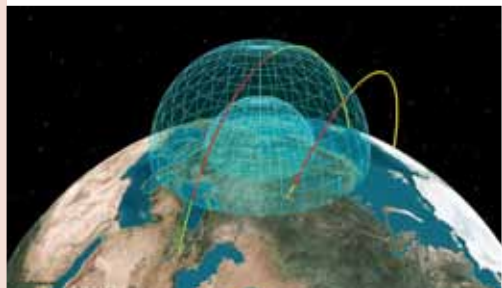
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