

‘Color Revolutions’ Are War

The strategy of the “color revolution” as a form of irregular warfare against states targeted for dissolution or regime change by the British Empire, is identified most closely with the work of Gene Sharp, an Oxford-educated political science professor, now emeritus at the University of Massachusetts. From Sharp’s manual *From Dictatorship to Democracy*, comes the concept of organizing upheavals around a symbolic color, a tactic which has been taken up by such institutions as the National Endowment for Democracy in the United States.

The rash of such “color revolutions” has been well publicized over recent decades, starting with the “yellow revolution” against President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines (1986), the “orange revolution” against the Ukrainian government (2004-05), the “rose revolution” against the Georgian government (2003), and many others.

On May 23 of this year, the Russian government and military leadership specifically took note of the significance of the “color revolution” tactic, as a form of warfare. At the Third Moscow Conference on International Security, Russian and Belarusian military speakers gave detailed presentations on the strategy, and how it has played out around the world.

According to the Voice of Russia coverage of the conference, President Vladimir Putin’s message to the conference identified the color revolution tactic, saying, “Obviously, modern challenges and threats make it necessary to stop the archaic logic of geopolitical games with a zero sum game, the attempts to force your own methods and values on other peoples, including by color revolutions.”

Later on, according to notes provided by Americans present at the conference, Russian and Belarusian generals spoke on the strategy and its history. Russian Chief of General Staff Gennadi Gerasimov emphasized that military force is concealed behind the color revolutions. If the protest potential turns out to be insufficient, military force is then used to ensure regime change. Libya was cited as a textbook example. In Syria, the West is using mercenaries and military assistance in an effort to overthrow the government, he said. What began as a purely internal conflict has turned into a battle between religious radicals and the government.

Given the increasingly close security cooperation between Russia and China over the intervening months, including within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, it is to be expected that the Russian view has been shared, in depth, with their Chinese colleagues.

See *EIR*’s archive at www.larouchepub.com, for more depth.

—Nancy Spannaus