

Resistance Grows in Germany To War Party's Drive Against Russia

by Alexander Hartmann

May 5—Jakob Augstein, in his April 28 SpiegelOnline column “War by Miscalculation,” elaborated a scenario for how a military conflict could develop out of the crisis in Ukraine: “In eastern Ukraine, a warlord kidnaps a group of Western observers. The fate of the men remains uncertain. Russia loses control over the hostage-takers. But the West does not believe Putin. NATO decides to intervene. The separatists call upon Russia for help. What could be avoided during the Cold War, now becomes reality: fighting between NATO troops and Russian forces. In Estonia, the Russian population revolts. There are casualties in clashes with security forces. The Russians cross the Narva. The government in Tallinn invokes NATO’s mutual defense clause. Neither side can back down now. U.S. President Obama and Putin have only one goal left: to save face. In order to counter the technological superiority of NATO, the Russians deploy tactical nuclear weapons.”

Augstein comments: “Anyone who thinks this is absurd, should consider: The first part of this scenario has already occurred.” Russia has made mistakes, he argues, but Europe should stop comparing Putin with Hitler, which is absolutely false; he asks whether Chancellor Angela Merkel will have the same guts that Gerhard Schröder had when, as Chancellor, he refused to join the Anglo-Americans in the Iraq War. “The U.S. has taken up Putin’s gauntlet with amazing willingness,” Augstein writes, blaming U.S. domestic political considerations.

Unfortunately, this is wishful thinking along the lines of “what should not be, cannot be.” For the real scandal in Western policymaking is that there are actually leading circles in the West who *want* confrontation with Russia.

Teltschick: Keep Channels Open to Russia

Helga Zepp-LaRouche reported, in her most recent webcast at www.bueso.de on April 30, on an April 29-30 Washington conference of the Atlantic Council, “Toward a Europe Whole and Free” [see article in *National*—ed.], in which this drive for confrontation was very much in evidence. She described the prevailing attitude there: “You would think that you were in a closed system, where assumptions are repeatedly recited like a mantra, formulas that have nothing to do with reality.” Almost all the speakers emphasized how well the expansion of the EU and NATO was going, that it must go even further, and that the doors are open to new members and we must show all the other countries—except Russia, of course—that they are welcome. Further forward deployment of troops, jets, and all sorts of military equipment was defended.

“The only person there who spoke rationally and responded sanely,” Zepp-LaRouche continued, “was Horst Teltschik,” a former national security advisor to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. Teltschik noted that



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Germany's Horst Teltschik, former national security advisor to Chancellor Helmut Kohl, introduced the only note of reality to the Atlantic Council meeting in Washington on April 29-30.

even at the height of the Cold War, the dialogue with the Soviet Union never ceased, and that Putin's reactions today could only be explained as utter disappointment that all the proposals from the Russian side—such as the idea of a “Eurasian Union from Brest to Vladivostok,” which originated with EU Commission President Romano Prodi—were repeatedly rejected by the West.

Teltschik's position was quite respectfully received, since he spoke as a confidant of Kohl and an on-the-scene witness from the time of Germany's reunification; but he was still a “lone voice” among people “who are really seeking confrontation,” Zepp-LaRouche said. Instead of admitting that a Nazi coup had taken place in Ukraine, conference speakers demanded that Russia itself be destabilized, using the same methods with which the West set up the anti-Russian networks in Ukraine, with the help of online social media and 2,200 Western-funded NGOs.

Putin on Ukraine

In fact, Putin continues to hold the door open for a peaceful settlement of the crisis. At the meeting of the Supreme Eurasian Economic Council on April 29 in Minsk, Belarus, he said: “Can the situation be resolved? It probably can, but this would require the parties to the conflict to sit down at the negotiating table and respect the Geneva agreements. This would mean that the authorities in Kiev would have to release from prison the people in whom Ukrainians have placed their trust and chosen as leaders, and would have to begin direct dialogue with these people. It would mean disarming the radicals, Right Sector and other radical groups, and clearing them out of buildings in Kiev rather than legalizing their activities. It would mean equal respect too for the lawful rights of people in other parts of Ukraine, especially in the east and southeast of the country.

“Engaging in dialogue and looking for compromise solutions is something that must be done. The wrong thing to do is to start looking for scapegoats elsewhere.”

Rather than responding to Putin's offer, the Kiev regime began an offensive against the pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine, so that the Kremlin felt obliged on May 2 to issue a declaration that the assault “effectively destroyed the last hope for the implementation of the Geneva agreements” of April 17.

Pressure on Germany

The background to this drive for confrontation in the West is the bankruptcy of the Western financial

system. With courage born of desperation, the leadership of the British-led financial empire is ready to go to the brink of nuclear war to compel Russia and China to submit to this empire of globalization.

The reluctance of German politicians to participate in this confrontation is a thorn in the side of the warmongers in the West, and therefore, the German government has been put under enormous pressure to agree to more economic sanctions against Russia, even though that would be suicide for the German economy. SpiegelOnline quoted a senior U.S. official saying that “he was confident that the Europeans, in the worst case scenario, would support sanctions against key sectors of the Russian economy, ‘for example, if Russian troops were to cross the border into Ukraine.’ That's what is under discussion.”

Actually, it is quite conceivable that the hostage crisis in eastern Ukraine was deliberately provoked by the Kiev regime in order to overcome the resistance of Germany in particular. Pro-Russian authorities justified the arrest of eight OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) military observers, including four Germans, in Slavyansk, on the grounds that the Kiev regime had not provided them with the requisite documents. They did not belong to the official OSCE observer mission, but were sent under the pretext of this mission to Slavyansk.

The fact that the Western media immediately started talking about a “liberation operation” by German KSK special forces (although the government quickly denied these rumors), and that this all happened just before the German Chancellor's visit to Washington, also makes one suspect that the incident was provoked deliberately.

The intimidation strategy against Berlin certainly included a 12-page paper by the U.S. law firm Rubin, Winston, Diercks, Harris, & Cooke, reported by SpiegelOnline on May 1; by all accounts, it was forwarded by the German Embassy to the German government.

This paper makes it frighteningly clear how little respect the leading circles of the financial empire have for the sovereignty of even “friendly” governments and for the rights of parliaments: The authors contest the German Bundestag's right to hear testimony by NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden at the NSA Committee of Inquiry, and threaten the German deputies that such a hearing would be “actionable.” “It is already a ‘criminal offense,’ according to the U.S. lawyer, if the main perpetrator” (meaning Snowden—SpiegelOnline) is enabled by German parliamentarians to disclose secret informa-

tion. If necessary, it may be considered ‘theft of state property.’ Depending on the facts, prosecutors could even proceed on the premise of a ‘conspiracy.’”

SpiegelOnline on May 5 further quoted a partner of the law firm, Jeffrey Harris: “We are of the opinion that if Snowden provides classified information or documents to the Bundestag or to German diplomats who interview Snowden, such acts give rise to criminal exposure under the laws of the United States. The United States would have jurisdiction to prosecute these acts regardless of where they occur.”

In fact, a capitulation by the German government would not only be suicidal, but also entirely unnecessary. Zepp-LaRouche pointed out in her webcast that U.S. President Barack Obama’s current standing in the polls shows him to have perhaps the greatest unpopularity that any U.S. President has experienced, since Richard Nixon. In several newspapers within and outside the United States, the discussion is about how much the initial enthusiasm for Obama has soured, how very disappointed with Obama the people are, and that Obama’s Presidency has in fact failed. Even his recent trip to Asia was a failure.

When asked what she would advise German Chancellor Angela Merkel with respect to her visit to America, Zepp-LaRouche replied: “If you go to someone who is already in an extremely weak position, then perhaps you might not be quite as obliging—to put it politely—as might have seemed necessary in the past, but instead you could make it very, very clear that Germany is a strong economic power, has a strong position within Europe and has its own interests.” Mrs. Merkel should “unequivocally and publicly announce that Germany will not participate in further sanctions against Russia, but on the contrary, that Germany shall make constructive suggestions as to how the crisis may be solved.” Merkel should say something along these lines in Washington, otherwise there is no point in her going.

If Germany refuses to take part in the escalation, the war party in the West cannot succeed. “We Germans could stop world war!” is therefore the message of the Civil Rights Solidarity Movement (BüSo) to voters in the May 22-25 European Parliament elections.

Translated from German by Daniel Platt.

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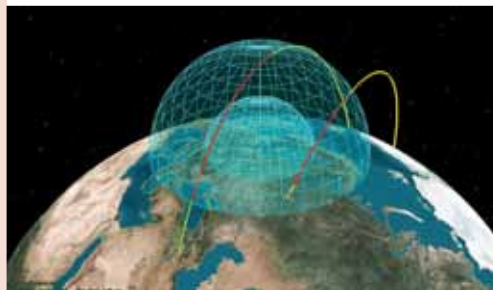
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