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## Russia and the United States take Geneva



**Sources:** Second Step Southern Cone

Neither the United States nor Russia have invited the Europeans to the main table.

The governments of the Russian Federation and the United States are meeting, in this second week of January in Geneva, Switzerland, represented by Sergei Ryabkov – Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia accompanied by the Russian Deputy Minister of Defense, Aleksandr Fomin. And, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Wendy Sherman who was accompanied by U.S. Army Lieutenant General and Director of Operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, James J. Mingus. What to call this meeting: Interesting, key to the future of Europe, fundamental to seek a solution to the frictions faced by both countries?

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The small and rounded Switzerland, presented in the media as neutral, aseptic and welcoming of any international meeting that takes place in the fields of health, human rights, international politics, high-level diplomacy, but also of darker and secret negotiations linked to its financial expertise, serves as a host, so that Washington and Moscow exchange their apprehensions again, their fears, their threats and their geopolitical goals.

I am inclined to define this meeting as striking, rather than historical or fundamental or the mother of all meetings, using in it the common places of the Western media, because it is one more meeting, without great lights destined, once again, to show its teeth with second-line officials, than to solve the underlying problems. A meeting that will allow us to verify two distinctive, but not essential, elements in the current global geopolitical chessboard:

First, that one of the central themes gives us a kind of cluster of confrontations experienced in the era of the cold war, when in addition to NATO there was the so-called Warsaw Pact. A period in which issues such as strategic stability, based on discussions regarding the nuclear arsenal, were part of the agenda between the two superpowers. That memory, together with the security guarantees demanded by Russia in this twenty-first century, assimilate both periods, that is, Russia warning the West "do not approach my western border with your weapons or pressure me by crossing my red lines, on pain of increasing the number of troops stationed in my territory and my weapons aimed at those who point at me"

Today, that guarantee of security has as its center the Ukrainian issue, along with the provocative and stifling role of that regional conflict, which is executed by the government presided over by the actor and comedian Volodymyr Zelensky. A warmongering leader, who stokes the fire of war in relation to the Donbass. A Ukrainian president, with the belief that his country is part of a strategic domino of the United States and its allies. A Zelensky, who on the big stage of the world, is convinced that he is a superstar, the main star, without accepting that he is, simply, one more screw in the gear of Washington's hegemonic interests.

Secondly, in this suggestive scenario, overlooking the beautiful Lake Geneva, the meeting between the two countries takes place on European territory, where conspicuously there is

talk of Europe, opinions and warnings are presented about the political-military alliance such as NATO – whose headquarters and largest number of military personnel is in Europe – But, this arrogant Europe with the infulus of an imperial past, still present in its main powers, is not represented in the bilateral United States – Russia. This shows the very small specific weight that this conglomerate of countries, grouped in the so-called European Union, plus Great Britain, represent for American geopolitics, especially when it comes to talking about global security. The United States, Russia, China represent the main table, from which crumbs fall that are avidly picked up by a hungry Europe, eager for figuration and stop being the one who removes the dishes once the dinner with the aforementioned diners is over.

Neither the United States nor Russia have invited the Europeans to the main table. In the Russian case, they have decided to meet separately with both NATO, through the Russia-NATO Council, and also with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In this Russian-American meeting it is noted that Europe does not have tickets of box of honor, but of a gallery, with the cheapest tickets despite all the percentage of its GDP spent to keep alive a NATO controlled by Washington. far from the best vision and sound of this Genevan representation. This, even though political leaders such as Emmanuel Macron, president of France, have global visions and high-sounding words regarding the role that the European Union can play when Russia and the United States discuss. Macron maintains "The entire geopolitical situation in the region requires that Europe, through the European Union, can propose its vision, act and sit at the table with all the parties." Unfortunately for this Macron, immersed in the tensions of local politics, he suffers a new contempt from the same country that opted for Great Britain and Australia, to carry out the formation of the AUKUS military agreement, which left the French military industry without a multimillion-dollar contract, to provide submarines to the oceanic country.

Ginebra deja al descubierto también, la tierna e ingenua idea de la presidenta de la Comisión Europea y ex ministra de Defensa de Alemania, Úrsula Von der Leyen, quien anhela un papel protagónico de su continente en el plano internacional, sin reconocer que más bien cumple el papel de mandadero que le ha asignado Washington. Afirma Von der Leyen «No habrá solución sin Europa; somos indispensables, somos una potencia geopolítica». Una ex ministra alemana que bien sabe las presiones a las que es sometido su

país por el tema del gasoducto Nord Stream, que han significado amenazas y chantajes de Washington, para cesar este proyecto conjunto entre la nación teutona y Rusia.

No Sra. Von der Leyen, ustedes como europeos en esta dinámica de confrontación entre Estados Unidos y Rusia no son indispensables, no son una potencia geopolítica por más parabienes y genuflexiones que le entreguen a Washington. Creo que alguien en la Unión Europea debe decirle a Macron y a la presidenta de la Comisión Europea, que son, simplemente, un plato acompañante y ejecutor de trabajos sucios en materia de desestabilización, agresión, sanciones e incluso invasiones cuando el patrón del mal lo ordena. Una Europa que parece no estar dispuesta al sacrificio en una guerra contra Rusia, para simplemente defender los intereses globales de su padre putativo norteamericano, pero tampoco capaces de defender su dignidad y soberanía frente a un Estados Unidos que los maltrata permanentemente.

Para los gobiernos de Vladimir Putin y Joe Biden, esta será una semana importante, en función de lo observado en los últimos meses, como se ha verificado con las amenazas de la OTAN y su punta de lanza en la frontera occidental rusa conformada por Ucrania, principalmente, pero también como espolones punzantes y molestos los gobiernos de Estonia, Lituania, Lituania y Polonia, deseosos de presentarse como alumnos aventajados en la presión contra Rusia. En el caso de Ucrania nos encontramos con un envalentonado Volodímir Zelensky, que ha prometido incluso “recuperar Crimea” al mismo tiempo que exige a la OTAN el envío de más tropas y garantías de seguridad frente a lo que considera una próxima invasión rusa a su territorio. Peticiones que implican también millonarios desembolsos en euros para mantenga el fuego encendido y así dinamizar la industria militar, tanto de Washington como de las referenciales “democracias representativas” europeas como Francia, Gran Bretaña y Alemania.

For Moscow, for its part, nato's advance towards its western border is not acceptable and in the face of this fact Moscow decided to strengthen its western military district, reminding Washington and its European partners of what was promised since the end of the former Soviet Union: not to incorporate either Georgia or Ukraine into the North Atlantic alliance and less to realize a threatening military wall from the Baltic to Anatolia. Moscow demands security guarantees, beyond the idea of strategic stability. The West is negotiating and confronting a new Russia, strengthened under the mandates of political

leader Vladimir Putin, which has managed to raise Russian self-esteem. A Russia, which has nothing to do with that fragile country that was left after the collapse of the former Soviet Union under the government of Mikhail Gorbachev and even less with the weak Boris Yeltsin and his submission to Washington through former President Bill Clinton and his permissiveness with the Russian oligarch world.

Geneva at the beginning of the year 2022, three decades since the former USSR ceased to exist, is the center of one more of the steps that both the United States and the Russian federation are taking, to compose a new world scenario, very much in spite of Washington, reluctant and hostile to leave behind unilateralism, the exclusive and exclusive hegemonic domination that Washington has had within the framework of the so-called New World Order after the collapse of the The meeting of the Russian and American foreign ministries in Geneva is developing news, as is often said in journalistic jargon and perfectly at the end of this week of meetings we can have a much clearer vision of what has been discussed and resolved, if this has been possible or we will have to settle for maintaining: nothing new under the sun.

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