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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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31.01.2022

Russia-U.S. who threatens whom?



Sources: Rebellion

If one allows oneself to be carried away by the fuss of the imperialist hegemonic media, one comes to the conclusion that Russian troops are about to occupy Ukraine and plant in the heart of Kiev the flag of the white, blue and red stripes.

And you can even imagine, that as happened with Nazi Germany in the face of the Soviet counter-coup, its motorized divisions are heating up the engines to repeat the same thing in

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Europe. If years ago we could speak rigorously of an anti-communist hysteria, today we can speak equally of a Russophobia, which regards the Kremlin as a serious threat to "Western civilization". To that extreme has come the cascade of lies, slander and speculation, almost always without foundation, that are woven about the foreign and domestic policy of the Russian Federation. Indeed, everything indicates that Moscow has concentrated a strong military device on the border with Ukraine, but at the same time it has not tired of assuring, through the mouth of President Vladimir Putin himself, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other important diplomats that he does not intend to invade Ukraine. In other words, the military units of the Slavic power are on the border between the two countries with other objectives. It is not difficult to assume that they constitute a bargaining chip before the US in view of NATO's constant expansion towards Russia and a tool of deterrence in the face of the aggressive presence of Ukrainian troops in the east of that country with advisers and weapons sent by the US and other NATO countries in violation of the Minsk agreements. Much more so when Moscow's negotiations with Washington, NATO and the European Union on security guarantees for Russia enter a very important stage and this seeks to defuse the political-military situation with the Western allies.

The reality is very different from the imperial media noise and a serene examination of the facts confirms this. Behind the screen of NATO, the United States has done nothing but extend militarily eastward since the Soviet collapse (1991), including military aggression. Contrary to what was verbally promised by then-US President George H.W. Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker to Mikhail Gorbachov, that NATO would not expand in the direction of Russia's borders, also assured to it by the German Chancellor of the time Helmut Kohl. It turns out that not only has it not stopped growing in that direction, but already in 2004 it incorporated into its membership the three ex-Soviet Baltic countries bordering Russia: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, where, as in Poland, it permanently maintains combat missions.

Four years after the dissolution of the USSR, the US, under the NATO flag, bombed the Serbian positions in Bosnia during the Kosovo war and, not satisfied with it, proceeded to the secession of the enclave, of enormous symbolism for Russia and the Slavic peoples in general. In 1995 it carried out a criminal air campaign against the former Yugoslavia and four years later added Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic as members. This was

followed by the income of Bulgaria, Slovakia and Slovenia. In short, in breach of the word given to Gorvachev by the US all the countries of the former European socialist camp, the members - except Serbia - of the former Yugoslavia and three ex-Soviet republics swelled the ranks of NATO after the Soviet collapse. To this must be added the color revolutions and provocations in the ex-Soviet area. Among them, the anti-Russian provocation mounted by the US and Israel in 2008 by arming and pushing Georgia against Moscow's peacekeepers in South Ossetia, which led to a harsh Kremlin counter-coup. Also, extremely serious and a prelude to the extraordinary tension between Russia and the US today, the coup d'état, with very active participation of neo-fascist paramilitary formations, against the elected president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich (2013), favorable to a friendly relationship with Russia, which led to the reintegration of Crimea to the Slavic power. During the coup and the so-called Euromaidan demonstrations, the riots in Kiev were encouraged by the then and now US Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland – an associate of George Soros – and the late US Senator John McCain.

El año pasado publiqué en estas páginas un artículo en dos partes titulado *¿Nueva guerra fría?* (La Jornada, 1 y 8 de abril). Pero hoy, ante la escalada antirusa -y también, antichina- que presenciamos no me cabe duda de que procede usarlo de modo afirmativo. El informe ante los medios, tanto de los voceros rusos como estadounidenses sobre las conversaciones bilaterales sostenidas en Ginebra el 10 de enero y las declaraciones del viceministro ruso Alexander Ruskó sobre la reunión Rusia y OTAN dos días después no dan cabida por ahora al optimismo sobre un posible entendimiento. Ya hemos visto la gravedad de la amenaza que representa la constante expansión de EU-OTAN, para la seguridad de la Federación de Rusia (FR). Pero ella comporta el peligrosísimo riesgo de conducir al estallido de una conflagración nuclear mundial y última, por ser ambas naciones las primeras potencias atómicas del orbe. El emplazamiento por EU-OTAN, cada vez más cerca de la FR, de dispositivos de ataque nuclear que la privan de tiempo para responder en caso de un ataque sorpresivo, cuando la velocidad de los misiles portadores de cabezas nucleares ha aumentado considerablemente, cambia totalmente la ecuación estratégica mundial. Es una amenaza tan seria a la seguridad de la FR, que esta no puede tolerar, a menos que quiera suicidarse. Como ha razonado el presidente Putin hipotéticamente, ¿qué haría EU si Rusia colocara dispositivos de esa naturaleza en las fronteras de Canadá o México con EU? Todo esto ocurre en un contexto de profunda crisis económica, política, cultural y moral en EU, además de retroceso de su hegemonía mundial, con un liderazgo

débil y cuestionado de Joe Biden, un país fragmentado y una extrema derecha que amenaza seriamente con llevar a Donald Trump a la presidencia en 2024. Para colmo, una Unión Europea atada a los caprichos de EU. El cuadro menos favorable para prevenir una escalada del conflicto con la FR, que podría arrastrar a su aliado chino.

That is why it is so important to understand Moscow's clearly defensive, but very energetic and resounding, stance in the face of anti-Russian hysteria and the US's reluctance to adopt detente measures, as confirmed by the refusal announced on 18 January by Secretary of State Anthony Blinken to grant Russia the security guarantees it demands and to which, under international law, it has every right as an attacked and threatened party. It is worth remembering, in addition to the already mentioned offensive actions of the US-NATO in the European theater -all directed against Russia-, the horrendous war record of Washington in other scenarios, through the use of the Atlantic alliance. If we only go back to the hypocritically called "war on terror", launched after the controversial terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in New York and Washington, we find a trail of lies – such as Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction – to justify criminal wars and the razing, trampling on international law, of that country, from Afghanistan, Libya, Syria, Yemen and Somalia. At the same time, the CIA's prisons and secret flights to kidnap and torture hundreds of so-called "enemy combatants" in violation of the Geneva Convention and the rule of law. Living and very ostensible testimony of this is the Guantánamo concentration camp in territory illegally occupied with Cuba, which has just turned 20 years old. Many of the 800 inmates who passed through there were innocent of the alleged crimes they were accused of but were subjected to cruel torture. There are still about 40 left, most of them for two decades without charge or trial. And let's not talk about Vietnam, with its 3 to 5 million civilians killed, or the extensive inventory of military interventions, coups, interference, blackmail and pressure from the imperial eagle in Latin America and the Caribbean until today. Can Russia be accused of something similar? Where? When? Can anyone informed doubt that it is characterized by a foreign policy of peace and respect for international law? It is no coincidence that the FR is part of the newly formed group of countries defending the UN Charter, along with Algeria, Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, Nicaragua, China, Palestine, Laos, and other countries subjected by the US and its allies to unilateral coercive measures or other types of aggression.

Well, the refrain that the FR is going to invade Ukraine and the shouting about the stationing of Russian troops on the border with that country is exactly the same as that of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. That one was intended to hide the gringo eagerness to seize the oil and natural resources of the Arab country and also other important geopolitical objectives. It seeks to divert attention from NATO's growing expansion into Russia and the presence in troubled eastern Ukraine of hundreds of instructors and growing caches of weaponry supplied by the US, UK and other NATO members. The attitude of the "West" in this case only emboldens the Ukrainian Nazi paramilitaries, whose formations are part of the army of that country, supporters of setting the world on fire, and, of course, has behind it the interests of the war industries of the United States and its allies, always ready to profit from the blood and suffering of the peoples.

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Rebellion 29.01.2022