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## *The Maskirovka has them crazy*

The outcome in Ukraine may well mark a milestone in global capitalist reorganization, reinforcing the new axis of power represented by China and Russia, and the so-called Shanghai Group.



As the scenario of the umpteenth "imminent" Russian invasion of Ukraine crumbles, BBC Moscow correspondent Steve Rosenberg complains that the Russians are not opening their game. He says, "Have you ever tried to do a puzzle that is missing half the pieces? It's frustrating. It's confusing. You never see the whole picture. Welcome to the world of the Kremlin."

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It is called "Maskirovka"\*, the complex web of tactical and strategic distractions and deceptions in which the Soviet military, and its Russian heirs, achieved mastery and that today has American strategists crazy.

Apparently in Washington they had an endless local conflict that would wear down Russia as in Afghanistan, in which they would sell many weapons, and the dead would run on the part of the Russians and the client, Ukraine, which also indebted to Western banks to pay for the almost one hundred tons of equipment it has received in these weeks, increased business.

Western military analysts consider the maskirovka to be one of the decisive elements for the Soviet victory against the German invaders in the Great Patriotic War (World War II), playing on their own prejudices and perceptions.

Basically, it consists first of all in knowing or intuiting the enemy thought to reinforce it in its conclusions and then act in a different way than the adversary anticipates, and hit it by surprise.

In the case of the Germans, as recounted in memoirs by their former generals, invariably the Soviets carefully induced them to wait for the attack where and when they themselves (the Nazi generals) had carried it out.

The British journalist implies that in this way, Russia is playing dirty in Ukraine: it is not known if it will attack or not, or when, or where, while sowing rumors and playing with silence.

Putin, the cunning evildoer

The corporate media attributes all the cunning and all the decisions to Russian President Vladimir Putin. It's an old media tactic: personalize and demonize every day of the adversary year, and make you think he's a lonely despot who sums up all the evil. The troops are Putin's, the tanks are Putin's, the planes are Putin's.



But Soviet military history accounts for another method, even when the ogre Stalin was in power. One of the largest offensive and maskirovka operations was carried out by Marshal Ivan Konev, precisely on the Ukrainian Front, against the opinion of Stalin and the entire Stavka (General Headquarters).

While the nervous tension caused by the maskirovka rises, the thuggery wears out, first of all because none of the thugs has the slightest intention of going down to the sand and facing the Russians. The Spanish send a frigate to Romania, the British sell arms shipments, NATO threatens, but none offer soldiers.

The case of the Spaniards must be the most pathetic, because their "left" government offers planes and ships without anyone asking for them, and in the virtual meeting that Joe Biden held with the heads of government of NATO, he did not include the super willing socialist Pedro Sánchez.

And now the exasperation is even more so, because Ukrainians realized that the entire bill is on their behalf, including a deepening of the country's economic debacle, with no prospect of success, unless a world nuclear war is a success.

Just as the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry had done in previous days, on Friday President Volodymyr Zelensky declared that there is no imminent danger of war, and called for Western countries to end the campaign of terror: "There are signs from respectable leaders, that tomorrow war begins. This is panic... How much does that cost our state?"

And since Ukraine — which was part of Russia for centuries, and the Soviet Union afterward — also knows maskirovka thoroughly, Zelensky gave hints of where things are going: "Internal destabilization is the main threat," he said.

The incendiary Ukrainian nationalism stirred up by the international media is based on minority power groups in Ukrainian society, which mostly speak Russian, and the population hardly absorbs with pleasure the cult of paramilitary sects (such as the "Army of Azobv") to the fascist Stepan Bandera, who during the German occupation contributed to the genocide of his own people.

#### Guarantees

The United States has already done what it said it would never do: give Russia written assurances that its security would not be affected. A (so far) secret document that the Russians rejected because it does not include the main demand: that Ukraine will not be incorporated into NATO, and that the offensive missile system deployed along the entire Russian border be dismantled.

Included in the maskirovka game are Putin's talks with the presidents of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, in which it is not said, but implied, that the possibility of establishing advanced Russian missile systems, operated by Russians, was discussed in those countries. That is, to surround the United States with the same terrifying threat that the Russians have on their doorstep today (it is estimated that the US missiles stationed in Ukraine would reach Moscow in five minutes).



Russia today has the most advanced hypersonic missiles in the world, which for now are unstoppable. According to artillery specialists, Russia achieved a 15-year strategic advantage over its American opponents. But those missiles would not be able to respond to a barrage from Ukraine.

"They have to do something!"

In the face of so much provocation, "Putin has to do something, he can't do nothing," President Biden said, exasperated, falling squarely into the game of Russian distractions.

Panic is already set in, and Ukraine could make the mistake of trying to retake Luhansk and Donietsk, the two industrial regions self-declared "people's republics" in 2014. If so, it is most likely that both will end up incorporated into the Russian Federation, as happened with the Crimean peninsula after the Ukrainian bombings.

Or it could also be that Putin "does something" and Russia ensures in a withering blow the annexation of these republics, which would be received with excitement by its population.

The tensions are not between Russia and Ukraine, as the media says. Not even between Russia and NATO, let alone with the European Union. And strictly speaking, not only between Russia and the United States.

Ukraine is today part of the terrain in which the battle of the world reorganization of capitalism is manifested, which began when Donald Trump was elected president of the United States; a clear expression of the decline of the empire at the hands of neoliberal globalization.





The outcome in Ukraine may well mark a milestone in the global capitalist reorganization, reinforcing the new axis of power represented by China and Russia, and the so-called Shanghai Group.

N of the E:

Journalist and researcher Romain Mielcarek refers to Maskirovka\* when talking about contemporary military influence operations, especially in the context of the Ukrainian war. He writes: "For Russians, the question of influence does not require several specific answers for the army, diplomacy, political power and the media. Unlike Western countries, which tend to distinguish between functions and limits, especially ethical ones, Russians have a global approach to the issue that makes it extremely difficult to read organizational charts. Mielcarek Romain, Militaires, diplomates et médias unis dans la stratégie d'influence » [archive], sur [www.guerres-influences.com](http://www.guerres-influences.com), février 2015 .

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