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## ***Who and how is a war manufactured?***

To manufacture a war you first have to manufacture an enemy, create a threat. And the need to respond to that threat. Russia's fears are perhaps not as unfounded as some claim

It is almost natural that countries (especially the powers because they have more facilities to do so), wish to solve their internal problems by unleashing conflicts abroad. From this, attacks on their national security are alleged, false nationalisms are blown up and Manichaeian calls for national unity in defense of sovereignty and threatened integrity.



U.S. President Joe Biden in the East Room of the White House in Washington. (Susan Walsh/Associated Press)

Who can doubt that the artificial conflict of Russia and Ukraine responds to that logic?, especially in the face of the proverbial and accelerated failure of the administrations of Joe Biden in the United States and Boris Johnson in Great Britain. Biden's popularity is one of the lowest of any U.S. president at the end of his first year in office.

According to an article published by the [Los Angeles Times](#) on January 20 that cites a poll by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, only 43% of those surveyed approve of the president's management. Likewise, only 28% want Biden to run for re-election in 2024, including 48% of Democrats. In economic matters, the situation is worse since barely 37% see the president's management with good eyes. Inflation in 2021 should be considered to be the highest in 40 years.

Tampoco es mejor la percepción sobre el manejo de la pandemia, rechazado por el 55% de los estadounidenses. De la misma manera se considera que el gobierno ha sido totalmente ineficiente en la diligencia de la problemática migratoria y ni siquiera ha podido llevar adelante su plan de gastos en materia de infraestructura y mejoramiento de la economía. En general, se percibe que ha sido incapaz de construir consensos con los republicanos -lo cual fue una gran bandera de su campaña- y ni siquiera con algunos de los legisladores más conservadores de su Partido Demócrata. En ese marco los ciudadanos se preguntan qué sentido tiene reelegir a Biden, lo que se visualiza como una prolongación de la crisis.



Boris Johnson and Joe Biden

The situation of Boris Johnson is no different, who is also debating in the midst of a deep political crisis motivated by the leak of an email in which the prime minister's chief secretary, Martin Reynolds, invited government personnel to a party in full confinement.

Labour Party leader Keir Starmer has called for Johnson's resignation, while polls indicate that 90% of Britons believe he should step aside.

In this context, anyone who has doubts about the real objectives that concur in the development of the "Ukrainian crisis" should listen to Johnson who after a visit to that country, after apologizing for having attended the aforementioned party, appealed to national sentiment, calling for "concentrating all efforts on confronting Russia." All this, after the Scottish MP Ian Blackford called on him to agree to be "investigated by the police for violating their own laws". For her part, the deputy Angela Rayner, Labour's number two, said Johnson "must go" immediately.



Boris *Johnson* and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev

When another MP accused him of ruining the country's reputation," Johnson responded by saying that: "Our country's reputation in the world is based on [...] in that we are able to unite allies to oppose Vladimir Putin. This is what the world is focused on right now and what I focus on right now," making it clear what the real goal of their *Ukrainian affair* is. Likewise, in clearly establishing who was going to die in an eventual war between Russia and Ukraine, Johnson said that: "The best thing we can do is to inform Russian citizens that Ukrainians will fight to the last drop of blood." Simply put, Johnson decided that Ukrainians must die to save him and Biden from debacle.

Some unwary reader might think that I am speculating about the situation on the Russian-Ukrainian border but it has been the authorities of this country themselves who have been in charge of reporting what is really happening there. Last Friday, January 28, the

president of Ukraine, Vladimir Zelensky, warned that in the West the impression is being created that the war with Russia is an imminent fact, ruling out that this will happen, at the same time that he lamented because the terror created around the supposed war is harming the national economy.

The Ukrainian president asked "Are there tanks in the streets?" He himself replied that this was not the case, but that such was the impression that had been created in countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Lithuania", in which the media transmitted false news about the mobilization of the armed forces and the militarization of cities, all of which was false. However, a situation of horror is being generated that is causing serious economic damage to the country from what he called a manifestation of hysteria that had forced him to talk with leaders of other countries to clarify that Ukraine is in need of stabilizing its economy, while the news that is disseminated points in the opposite direction.

In a clear but veiled allusion to Biden and Johnson noted that: "... there are signs from respected leaders of states who openly say, not even through diplomatic language, that 'there will be a war tomorrow.'" He pointed out that this produces panic in society, the markets and the financial sector, also affirming that a very important sum of money had fled the country in recent days, deploring that "the increase in tension conceived by the media has 'a high cost' for the country."

After the specter of an unpostponable war was raised in November, which – according to the US network CNN – was even announced by Biden to Zelensky (although denied by Washington and Kiev) more recently, on January 26 the US Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman herself set a date for the Russian invasion when she pointed out that: Everything indicates that [Russian President Vladimir Putin] will "use military force at some point, perhaps between now and mid-February," unleashing "hysteria within hysteria, when countries like the United States, Canada, Australia and Japan will begin withdrawing their diplomats from Kiev.

Zelensky commented that such a decision was a mistake, but with the rhetoric of the subordinate countries he was quick to clarify that: "I have no right to say that it is a mistake of the governments of respected countries. I think it's a mistake for us, for Ukraine."



On the other hand, this situation has continued to deepen inter-European contradictions. The leaders of the Old Continent will have to find arguments to explain to their citizens the reasons why, following orders from Washington, they force them to pay for the gas they consume at a price three and four times higher than they would have to do if they obtained it from Russia. Such reasoning begins to make a dent in some European leaders whose rationality does not allow them to understand that they have to "buy" in Ukraine a conflict that they do not consider their own. In this regard, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock [stated](#) that NATO's eastward expansion is not on the Alliance's agenda. He also reiterated that the inclusion of Ukraine in NATO is "not on the agenda currently" adding that Ukrainians want to live in peace so it is essential to return to discussions on the implementation of the Minsk agreements. Interestingly, in that it coincides with Russia.

On the same day, Friday, January 28, confirming President Zelensky's statements, Ukrainian Defense Minister [Alexei Reznikov](#) told Parliament that there are no preparations for a Russian offensive against his country. He explained that: "At this time, there is no event or action of a military nature [by Moscow] that is markedly different from what happened last spring."

But what was Biden's decision in this situation, in which one could expect tensions to ease and the conditions for negotiation and dialogue to improve? On the same day, without an opinion on what Zelensky and the Ukrainian defense minister said, he announced that he would move more troops to Eastern Europe and NATO countries in the short term.

In parallel, the United States convened a session of the UN Security Council that according to the Russian representative to that body, Vasili Nebenzia does not contribute to the resolution of the conflict in Ukraine, but rather, harms it. Nebenzia said that the

open format offered by the United States is a classic example of "megaphone diplomacy", which does not solve anything and creates more noise by transmitting an erroneous message of what is happening.

By the way, has anyone bothered to ask ukrainians what they think of their joining NATO? *Ukrainian researcher Volodymyr Ishchenko associated with the Institute for Eastern European Studies at the Free University of Berlin in an article entitled "NATO and Ukraine: let Ukrainians decide democratically"* published on the sinpermiso.info portal points out that in December 2007, less than 20% of Ukrainian citizens supported the union of their country with NATO. Although after the 2013 coup d'état and the referendum in Crimea that consecrated its incorporation into Russia, that figure increased to around 40%, still a majority of more than 60% of Ukrainian citizens reject their entry into the aggressive US-led war organization.



However, in issuing this last issue, Ishchenko clarifies that "the polls no longer included the most pro-Russian Ukrainian citizens [sic] from the territories that are not under the control of the Ukrainian government: Crimea and Donbass", which makes it impossible to statistically compare one figure and another.

Thus, it is clear that the "conflict" in Ukraine is an artificial invention of the United States and Great Britain with the complicity of the European elites aimed in the short term at saving Biden and Johnson from the debacle, and at the strategic level consolidate an Anglo dominance and hegemony in the world, although this leads to a new war in Europe with the well-known millionaire losses of human beings and material goods. that Washington and London will see from afar and later... much later, invent a new "landing in Normandy" that consecrates them (Hollywood through) as "defenders of humanity" even if they do it on the corpse of millions of citizens who today are impelled to obtain gas at a low price

and then will be cannon fodder for arms sellers to take advantage of to increase their profit and profit.

Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein for La Pluma, February 2, 2022

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