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## *In Ukraine the aggressors are the United States and NATO*

Sources: Rebellion

It is false that Russia is invading Ukraine.

### NATO AT RUSSIA'S DOORSTEP

Since November 2021, the political and military campaigns of Yankee imperialism have intensified, with their inseparable international media battery, distorting the reality of Ukraine.

According to the Biden administration and NATO, the military arm of Yankee and European imperialism, that Eastern European country ruled by President Volodymyr Zelensky would be about to be invaded by Russia. The only argument is that Vladimir Putin would have 100,000 soldiers in areas near Ukraine, between those stationed on Russian territory and the troops of Belarus, a Moscow ally and bordering the alleged victim.

That military closeness means nothing. Russian and Belarusian soldiers have not invaded a millimeter of Ukraine. They are in their respective countries and since the beginning of February they have been conducting military exercises, several months after the us-Atlanticist world campaign against them began. The Russian argument is that they are exercises by two allies, which do not put third countries at risk. It is its sovereign right, the

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Moscow government said, repeating that it has no intention of invading the neighbor with capital in Kiev.

The evidence of its peaceful vocation has been reiterated by the Kremlin. Putin has had talks with Biden, Emmanuel Macron and other European leaders. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov held them with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the foreign ministers of Germany, France and other of the 27 partners of the European Union chaired by Ursula von der Leyen.

As Putin asked in a speech, in the face of the ruinous campaign against him, how many military bases did Russia have on the border with the United States, either from the south, Mexico, or from the North, Canada? How many Russian aircraft carriers were off San Francisco Bay or in the vicinity of Manhattan? Obviously none.

On the other hand, the Yankees and Europeans cannot say the same. They do have military, bases and offensive weaponry in the vicinity of Russia and targeting important targets. As Atilio Borón recalled ("The crisis in Ukraine in a couple of images", 27/1), a few years after the collapse of the USSR, the NATO military organization was swollen with 14 countries, following its expansion towards the Russian borders: "in 1999 Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic joined. In 2004, NATO's fifth expansion took place with the incorporation of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. In 2009 the process continues with the entry of Croatia and Albania; in 2017 Montenegro does it, in March 2020, already in the middle of the pandemic, North Macedonia".

The Atlanticist promise not to move an inch east was carried away by the militaristic wind of a world that Washington and allies wanted to unipolar. Thus NATO became 30 member countries and was militarily encircling Russia everywhere, from the Baltic to the Black Sea. This encirclement is completed with its military bases and deployment in the Pacific, with axis in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, etc.

## **WHO THREATENS WHOM**

Arguing this crisis, both the US and the UK and other minor players such as Sweden and Spain, sent troops, weaponry and funds to the Ukrainian government, and also to nearby

bases in Poland, Czech Republic and Romania, reinforcing pre-existing NATO military detachments. The U.S. sent 3,000 more troops to Poland and Romania, rounding up nearly 6,000 members of the 82nd Airborne Division. Across Europe, the Pentagon admits to having more than 80,000 military personnel stationed and some of them were secretly training the Ukrainian military.

Another who sent troops and weapons to Ukraine is the most obedient to Pentagonist orders, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

That, in addition to political, economic and strategic motives, is influenced by the political needs of Biden and Johnson. They are going through internal political crises, due to economic mismanagement and the pandemic. In London, that was exacerbated by corruption scandals: Labour opponents and many members of the same Conservative party are calling for Johnson's resignation. That explains the urgency to use a crisis abroad to distract and occupy their respective internal fronts with an issue that generates "national unity" in those imperial metropolises.

That is why the real aggressors in Ukraine assured last November that it was "imminent" of Russian invasion of that country. In December and January it intensified, to the point of lying to the world that this invasion, taken for granted, could lead to the unleashing of a world war that would start in that European east. They sowed fear and terror.

Then the Yankee and European authorities slightly lowered the tone of their denunciations: the danger of Russian aggression was still very real but not so immediate. That may have been influenced by Russia's flexible tactics, of not incurring provocations and on the contrary, emphasizing that its claims to NATO were other and very valid. It must also have partly cooled the warm minds of imperialism by the fact that some European countries did not follow the more aggressive Anglo-American duo on foot. Really a trio if you count the head of NATO, Jens Stoltenberg.

The government of Olaf Scholz in Germany, like the previous one of Angela Merkel, plus that of Macron of France, occupied in the presidential elections of April, and that of Italy, are not in the front row of the most warlike.

These Franco-German partners have a better relationship with Moscow politically and especially Germany, which depends on more than 40 percent of the gas supply from Russia. The Nord Stream and Nord Stream II gas pipelines, the latter completed but not yet operational, provide gas to Europe and are good reasons to continue negotiating with Putin without missiles flying or troops being ordered to invade other countries.

On the other hand, the Russian president is no beginner. In addition to strengthening his actions with the allied Belarus, he sought in these months to weld his political and economic agreement with his Chinese colleague Xi Jinping. This was ratified in the first week of February with its attendance at the Winter Olympics in Beijing and the signing of a political declaration of unity of the two countries that had in 2021 a record bilateral trade of 150,000 million dollars. China supported Russia for the case of Ukraine and Russia supported China for its unwavering claim to Taiwan.

That made a lot of noise in Washington and Brussels, but the plan for American aggression still stands. And they turned their gors on whether the Russian invasion of Kiev would be imminent. Secretary of State Blinken even dated the lie. He said on Feb. 11 in Melbourne that Russia could invade Ukraine "at any time, including during the Olympics," which are being held until Feb. 20 in Beijing. He said this after meeting with his counterparts from India, Japan and Australia in the pro-American military alliance called Quad. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said in Washington: "It's likely to start with aerial bombardments and missile strikes that could obviously kill civilians." And they call themselves pacifists...

## **WHAT RUSSIA IS ASKING FOR**

What Russia has asked the United States and NATO for is more security, as it feels threatened by forces of that origin on or very close to its borders. So it proposes two things: that NATO's military bases and offensive armaments return to their original positions of 1997, that is, that they withdraw from the 14 members where they have been established since then, especially from the countries that had been socialist, such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Romania, etc. And that in particular NATO does not accept the entry of Ukraine as member number 31, because it would be the straw that overflows

the glass of Russian security. Putin's fear is that Ukraine's entry into NATO could lead to a war between Russia and the Atlantic alliance for control of the Crimean peninsula.

Despite the fairness and wisdom of the proposal, Putin and Lavrov have not been taken note. NATO argues that it cannot close the doors to anyone, a fancy way of saying it wants to admit Kiev. And in addition to military deployments and arms shipments to Ukraine, it has ratified its threats of severe economic sanctions on Russia, such as banning the Nord Stream II gas pipeline and disconnecting it from the SWIFT international payment system.

Putin does not accept a defeat in Ukraine, a nation that was constituted as such with the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 and the creation of the USSR after 1922. In 2014 there was a pro-NATO coup in Kiev that toppled the government and aligned itself against Russia. Thus began the war against eastern areas, in the Donbass, where the Russian population lives. Moscow recovered in 2014 the Crimean peninsula and the port-base of Sevastopol, but did not do the same with the Donbass, where thousands of people of Russian origin died.

Weighing the competing factors it does not seem that it will detonate a Third World War, but the conflict exists and will continue as a hard struggle. On Saturday, February 12, there will be a telephone communication between Biden and Putin, a fact that he did not finish the negotiation phase showing his teeth.

Putin's Russia is not the socialist russia of Lenin and Joseph Stalin, but neither is it the restorer of capitalism and the capitulant of Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. Moscow today does not believe in cododrile tears and has planted itself on the border of Ukraine, as if to say "They will not pass."

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