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By Mike Whitney
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The Ukraine crisis is not about Ukraine, but about Germany



Sources: The Unz Review [Image: Nord Stream 1 and 2 (Ara)]

Translated from English for Rebellion by Beatriz Morales Bastos

"The primary interest of the United States, for which we have fought wars for a century (the First and Second World Wars, and the Cold War), has been relations between Germany and Russia, because united they are the only force that can pose a threat to us. And to make sure that doesn't happen," George Friedman, president of STRATFOR, at the Chicago Council on Foreign Affairs.

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The Ukraine crisis has nothing to do with Ukraine, but with Germany and, in particular, with an oil pipeline linking Germany with Russia called Nord Stream 2. Washington sees it as a threat to its primacy in Europe and has continually tried to sabotage the project. All in all, the Nord Stream project has gone ahead and is now fully operational and ready to go. As soon as the German institutions grant the final certification, the gas supply will begin. German homeowners and businesses will have a reliable source of clean and cheap energy, while Russia will see its gas revenues rise sharply. It is a situation in which both sides benefit.

Senior U.S. foreign policy officials are not happy with this situation. They don't want Germany to rely more on Russian gas because trade builds trust and trust leads to expanded trade. As relations become warmer, more customs barriers are erected, regulations are relaxed, travel and tourism increase, and a new security structure is created. In a world where Germany and Russia are friends and trading partners, there is no need for American military bases, no expensive U.S.-made weaponry and missile systems, nor is NATO needed. There is also no need to negotiate an energy deal in U.S. dollars or to hoard U.S. Treasuries to balance the books. Transactions between trading partners can be carried out in the currencies themselves, which will cause a sharp decline in the value of the dollar and a drastic change in economic power. These are the reasons why the Biden administration opposes Nord Stream. It is not a simple pipeline, it is a window into the future, a future in which Europe and Asia come closer together in an immense free trade zone that increases their mutual power and prosperity while leaving out the United States. Warmer relations between Germany and Russia signal the end of a "unipolar" world order that the United States has overseen for 75 years. A German-Russian alliance threatens to precipitate the decline of the superpower that is currently slowly approaching the abyss. That is why Washington is determined to do everything it can to sabotage Nord Stream and keep Germany within its orbit. It's a matter of survival.

This is where Ukraine comes in. Ukraine is Washington's "weapon of choice" to torpedo Nord Stream and drive a wedge between Germany and Russia. The strategy is taken from the first page of the U.S. Foreign Policy Manual under the heading "Divide and Conquer." Washington needs to create the feeling that Russia poses a threat to Europe's security, that's the goal. He needs to show that Putin is a bloodthirsty aggressor with a very irritable character that cannot be trusted. To achieve this, the media has been tasked with the

mission of repeating again and again "Russia plans to invade Ukraine". What is not said is that Russia has not invaded any country since it dissolved the Soviet Union, while in that same period of time the United States has invaded countries or overthrown their regimes in more than 50 countries and that the United States maintains more than 800 military bases in countries around the world. The media does not report any of this, but puts the spotlight on the "evil Putin", who has concentrated some 100,000 troops along the Ukrainian border, threatening to plunge all of Europe into another bloody war.

All hysterical war propaganda is created with the intention of manufacturing a crisis that can be used to isolate, criminalize, and ultimately divide Russia into smaller units. However, the real target is not Russia, but Germany. See this excerpt from an article by Michael Hudson published in *The Unz Review*: "The only way left for American diplomats to block European purchases is to incite Russia to a military response and then claim that avenging this response is far more important than any purely national economic interest. As hard-line Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Victoria Nuland explained at a State Department press conference on Jan. 27: "If one way or another Russia invades Ukraine, Nord Stream 2 will not move forward." (["America's Real Adversaries Are Its European and Other Allies"](#), *The Unz Review*)

It's very clear: Biden's team wants to "incite Russia to a military response" to sabotage NordStream, implying that there will be some sort of provocation aimed at inducing Putin to send his troops across the border to defend people of Russian ethnicity in the eastern part of the country. If Putin falls into the trap, the response will be swift and forceful. The media will vilify the action as a threat to all of Europe, while leaders around the world will denounce Putin as the "new Hitler." This is, in a nutshell, Washington's strategy and all with one goal in mind: to make it politically impossible for German Chancellor Olaf Scholz to give NordStream final approval.

Given that we know of Washington's opposition to Nord Stream, readers may wonder why earlier this year the Biden administration pressured the U.S. Congress not to impose more sanctions on the project. The answer is simple: domestic politics. Germany is currently decommissioning its nuclear power plants and needs natural gas to make up for the energy deficit. In addition, the threat of economic sanctions displeases the Germans, who consider them a sign of foreign meddling. "Why is the United States meddling in our decisions on

energy issues?" asks the average German. "Washington should mind its own business and not meddle in ours": this is precisely the answer you would expect from any reasonable person.

And then, we have this quote from *Al Jazeera*: "The majority of the German population supports the project, only part of the elite and the media is against the pipeline [...]. " The more the United States talks about sanctions or criticizes the project, the more popular it becomes among German society," said Stefan Meister, Russia and Eastern Europe expert at the German Council on Foreign Relations (["Nord Stream 2: Why Russia's pipeline to Europe divides the West," Al Jazeera](#)).

So public opinion strongly supports Nord Stream, which helps explain why Washington has decided on a new strategy. Sanctions are not going to work, so Uncle Sam has moved on to Plan B: creating an external threat big enough for Germany to be forced to block the pipeline's inauguration. Frankly, the strategy smacks of desperation, but Washington's perseverance is impressive. They may be losing by 5 runs in the bottom of the ninth, but they haven't thrown in the towel yet. They're going to make one last attempt and see if they can move forward.

On Monday, President Biden held his first joint press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the White House. The event was surrounded by unprecedented hype. Everything had been organized to manufacture a "crisis environment" that Biden used to pressure the foreign minister in the direction of American politics. Earlier this week, White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki repeatedly claimed that "a Russian invasion was imminent." His comments were followed by those of State Department spokesman Nick Price, who claimed that intelligence agencies had provided him with details of an alleged Russian-backed "false flag" operation that they hoped would take place in the near future in eastern Ukraine. Price's warning was followed Sunday morning by national security adviser Jake Sullivan's claim that a Russian invasion could occur at any time, perhaps "even tomorrow." This came just days after Bloomberg News published its sensationalist and completely false headline that "Russia invades Ukraine."

Can you see the models followed here? Can you see how all these unsubstantiated claims were used to put pressure on the unsuspecting German chancellor, who seemed oblivious to the campaign being directed against him?

Unsurprisingly, the final blow was dealt by the AMERICAN president himself. During the press conference, Biden flatly stated that "if Russia invades [...] there will no longer be a Nord Stream 2. We will finish him off."

So, does the United States now dictate the policy that Germany should follow???

What unbearable arrogance!

The German chancellor was surprised by Biden's comments, which were clearly not in the original script. However, at no time did Scholz agree to cancel Nord Stream and refused to even mention the pipeline by name. If Biden thought he could force the leader of the world's third-largest economy by cornering him in a public forum, he was wrong. Germany remains willing to launch Nord Stream, regardless of potential conflicts in distant Ukraine. But this could change at any time. At the end of the day, who knows what provocations Washington might be planning in the near future? Who knows what risks Biden is willing to take to slow America's decline and prevent a new "polycentric" world order from emerging? Anything could happen in the coming weeks. Anything.

For now Germany is in a position of advantage. It is up to Scholz to decide how to resolve the matter. Will he implement the policy that best serves the interests of the German people or will he give in to Biden's relentless pulse? Will it chart a new course that strengthens new alliances in the hectic Eurasian corridor or will it support Washington's crazed geopolitical ambitions? Will it accept Germany's pivotal role in a new world order in which many emerging centres of power share global governance on an equal footing and in which leaders remain unwaveringly committed to multilateralism, peaceful development and security for all, or will it seek to support the battered post-war system that has clearly outgrown its useful life?

One thing is for sure: whatever Germany decides, it will affect all of us.

Source: <https://www.unz.com/mwhitney/the-crisis-in-ukraine-is-not-about-ukraine-its-about-germany/>

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