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In Ukraine, the US is dragging us into a war with Russia A 2014 article more current than ever

The Pentagon currently runs "special operations" — secret wars — in 124 countries. In the US, rising poverty and loss of freedom are the historical corollary of a state of perpetual war. If we add the risk of nuclear war, the question is: why do we tolerate this?



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Why do we tolerate the threat of another world war on our behalf? Why do we allow lies that justify this risk? The magnitude of our indoctrination, Harold Pinter wrote, is a "highly successful, brilliant, and even ingenious act of hypnosis," as if truth "did not occur even while it is being produced."



A pro-Russian activist with a shell casing and a package of American-made food that fell from a Ukrainian army armored vehicle during an attack on a roadblock on May 3, 2014 in Andreievka, Zaporizhia Oblast, Ukraine. Photo: Scott Olson/Getty

Every year, U.S. historian William Blum publishes his "updated summary of the history of U.S. foreign policy," which shows that, since 1945, the U.S. has attempted to overthrow more than fifty governments, many of them democratically elected; has indecently interfered in the elections of thirty countries; bombed civilians in 30 countries; has used chemical and biological weapons; and has attempted to assassinate foreign leaders.

En muchos casos Gran Bretaña ha sido un colaborador. El grado de sufrimiento humano, por no hablar de la criminalidad, es apenas reconocido en Occidente, a pesar de contar con las comunicaciones más avanzadas del mundo y el periodismo supuestamente más libre. Que las víctimas más numerosas del terrorismo – «nuestro» terrorismo- sean musulmanes, es algo indecible. Se suprime que el yihadismo extremo, que condujo al 11-S, fue alimentado como arma de la política angloamericana (Operación Ciclón en Afganistán). En abril, el Departamento de Estado de USA señaló que, tras la campaña de la OTAN en 2011, «Libia se ha convertido en un refugio terrorista seguro».

The name "our" enemy has changed over the years, from communism to Islamism, but in general it is any society independent of Western power and occupying strategically useful or resource-rich territory, or simply offering an alternative to American domination. The leaders of these obstructionist nations often step aside violently, such as Democrats Muhammad Mossedeq in Iran, Arbenz in Guatemala and Salvador Allende in Chile, or are assassinated like Patrice Lumumba in Congo. All are the subject of a

campaign of vilification by the Western media: think of Fidel Castro, Hugo Chavez and now Vladimir Putin.

Washington's role in Ukraine is only different in its implications for the rest of us. For the first time since the Reagan years, the U.S. is threatening to lead the world to war. With Eastern Europe and the Balkans turned into NATO military outposts, the last "buffer state" bordering Russia – Ukraine – is being torn apart by fascist forces unleashed by the US and the EU. We in the West now support neo-Nazis in a country where the Ukrainian Nazis supported Hitler.

Having devised the coup in February against the democratically elected government in Kiev, Washington's planned seizure of the historic and legitimate ice-free Russian naval base in Crimea failed. The Russians defended themselves, as they have against all threats and invasions from the West for nearly a century.

But NATO's military encirclement has accelerated, along with U.S.-orchestrated attacks on ethnic Russians in Ukraine. If Putin can be provoked to come to his aid, his preconceived role as a "pariah" will justify a NATO-led guerrilla war that is likely to spill over into Russia itself.

Instead, Putin has confused the war party by seeking a deal with Washington and the EU, withdrawing Russian troops from the Ukrainian border and urging ethnic Russians from eastern Ukraine to abandon the weekend's provocative referendum. These Russophone and bilingual peoples – a third of Ukraine's population – have long sought a democratic federation that reflects the country's ethnic diversity and is both autonomous from Kiev and independent of Moscow. Most are neither "separatists" nor "rebels," as the Western media call them, but citizens who want to live safely in their homeland.

Like the ruins of Iraq and Afghanistan, Ukraine has become a CIA theme park, personally run by CIA Director John Brennan in Kiev, with dozens of CIA and FBI "special units" establishing a "security structure" that oversees savage attacks on those who opposed the February coup. Watch the videos and read witness reports of this month's Odessa massacre. Fascist thugs brought in on buses burned down the union's headquarters, killing 41 people trapped inside. Look at the waiting cops.

A doctor described how he tried to rescue people, "but I was stopped by the pro-Ukrainian Nazi radicals. One of them pushed me sharply, promising that soon I and other Jews from Odessa would suffer the same fate. What happened yesterday did not even take place

during the fascist occupation in my city during World War II. I wonder why the whole world is silent."

Russian-speaking Ukrainians struggle to survive. When Putin announced the withdrawal of Russian troops from the border, Kiev junta defense secretary Andriy Parubiy — a founding member of the fascist Svoboda party — boasted that attacks on the "insurgents" would continue. Orwellian-style, propaganda in the West has reversed this in Moscow "attempting to orchestrate conflict and provocation," according to William Hague, the British foreign secretary. His cynicism corresponds to Obama's grotesque congratulations to the coup junta for its "remarkable restraint" after the Odessa massacre. The board, Obama says, is "duly elected." As Henry Kissinger once said, "What counts is not what is true, but what is perceived as truth."

In the US media, the Odessa atrocity was downplayed, calling it "murky" and a "tragedy" in which "nationalists" (neo-Nazis) attacked "separatists" (people collecting signatures for a referendum on a federal Ukraine). Rupert Murdoch's Wall Street Journal condemned the victims — "A deadly Ukrainian fire likely set by rebels, according to the government." Propaganda in Germany has been pure cold war, with the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung warning its readers of Russia's "undeclared war." For Germans it is a poignant irony that Putin is the only leader condemning the rise of fascism in twenty-first century Europe.

A popular cliché is that "the world changed" after September 11. But what has changed? According to the great alert launcher Daniel Ellsberg, there has been a silent coup d'état in Washington and now unbridled militarism rules. The Pentagon currently runs "special operations" — secret wars — in 124 countries. In the US, rising poverty and loss of freedom are the historical corollary of a state of perpetual war. If we add the risk of nuclear war, the question is: why do we tolerate this?

John Pilger, The Guardian, 13 May 2014

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