



Ukraine north worth a shooting war, says Cato policy expert

Chad Groening, Friday, March 07, 2014

A foreign policy expert has an opinion about the turmoil in Crimea: It's not worth starting World War III over.

The U.S. Congress is rushing to put in place hard-hitting sanctions on Russia in response to its takeover of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. The hope is that Europe will follow the U.S. lead.

Doug Bandow, a senior fellow at the [Cato Institute](#), expressed skepticism about European participation.

"People want to sanction Putin, and I don't particularly have a problem with that, as long as you recognize it won't do very much," he said during a teleconference sponsored by [Tea Party Unity](#).

"The main issue would be, do you try to sanction their banking system and really put economic pressure on?" Bandow asked. "The problem here is the Europeans, who are most effected, don't want to do very much. If you don't get the Europeans to go along with sanctions, the question is what do we achieve?"

The U.S. sanctions push represents a rare case of broad agreement among the Obama administration, and Democrats and Republicans in both houses of Congress.

But they're also united in their concern that American economic penalties will mean little without the participation of European countries with far deeper commercial relations with Russia.

Bandow says the only certainty here is that we don't want a war over the crisis in Ukraine.

"There's simply nothing at stake here that one could imagine wanting to get into a war, especially with a nuclear armed power," Bandow said during the teleconference.

He argued that Russia is a "very different creature" than Serbia or Iraq.

"We're talking about a country that remains significant and has the ultimate retaliatory capacity," he stressed.