



Ukraine's Broader Impact

By Deena Stryker
August 13, 2014

Anyone who has witnessed European farmers drive their tractors into the center of Brussels and dump crops in front of EU headquarters, knows the hold they have on legislators. Much of European agriculture takes place on family farms and the EU has had to create special rules and subsidies to keep its food producers happy.

Since 2008, the US has caused immense suffering across the EU by allowing Wall Street a free rein, and as I've written before, I believe this is partly a deliberate attempt to eliminate the welfare state. For information about its benefits are finally seeping through decades of media silence, making American workers wonder why they can't have one too. The latest installment in America's use of the EU for its own purposes consists of getting it to impose sanctions on Russia, with which, since the fall of the Soviet Union, it has developed close commercial ties.

Washington succeeded in getting the individual EU leaders, notwithstanding their better judgement, to vote together in Brussels to impose sanctions on Russia, by claiming that Russia 'took over' Crimea, a land that had historically been part of Russia except for a few decades after a Soviet leader gifted it to Ukraine, and whose inhabitants, largely ethnic Russians, voted in an internationally monitored referendum to rejoin the mother country. The accusation makes a mockery of US interventions around the world to impose hand-picked rulers, however it had fifty years of fear-mongering behind it: since the end of World War II, Western Europe has lived under a constant barrage of propaganda warning that Soviet tanks are about to take it over, with the countries of Eastern Europe held up as hapless examples, in a rewrite of large pages of history. (The Yalta agreements on spheres of influence and the fact that those countries, still living under more or less feudal regimes, had significant communist and socialist parties.) During the entire Post-War period up until the fall of the Soviet Union, U.S. diplomats, aided by a powerful propaganda apparatus (Voice of America, Radio Free Europe, etc.), continued to warn European leaders that Russian tanks were poised to overrun their defenseless lands, justifying American-manned bases and NATO.

Not only is Washington still living those bygone days, its chosen ally in Kiev is imitating the enemy it's trying to defeat, an imaginary Russian Communism, by adopting legislation reminiscent of the Iron Curtain, banning Russian broadcasts into Ukraine, and now, declaring that a fleet of 280 aid trucks carrying 2,000 tons of aid, including grain, sugar, medicine, sleeping bags and power generators, will be denied entry to assist the victims of its aggression in the east of the country. In what seems eerily like a vindication of all those Cold War warnings of an imminent Russian takeover of Europe, the drumbeat is as absurd now as it was then. According to The Guardian (<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/13/russia-aid-convoy-reach-ukraine-within-hours>):

On Monday, NATO secretary general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, said there was a 'high probability' of a Russian attack which might happen under the guise of a humanitarian operation". Ukraine's interior minister, Arsen Avakov, said in a statement on Wednesday that 'no humanitarian convoy from Putin will be let through the Kharkiv region' 'A provocation by a cynical aggressor on our territory cannot be allowed', he said." On Tuesday, the French president, François Hollande, told Putin in a phone call that he had 'grave concerns' about Russia's ongoing unilateral mission in Ukraine" ..and "Andrei Illarionov, a former economic policy adviser to Putin who is now a fellow at the conservative Cato Institute in Washington, told the Ukrainian publication *Gordon* on Monday that any humanitarian convoy to Ukraine would be a sign of Russian aggression aimed at supporting the separatist cause.

It seems clear to me - and probably to many others whose vision is not clouded by propaganda - that Kiev's aim is to rid eastern Ukraine of its Russian inhabitants, and that Moscow, considering this to be the lesser evil, welcomes them to Russia instead of starting World War III. The difference between Putin's political acumen and Poroshenkos is illustrated by Kiev's banning of Russian broadcasts into Ukraine, contradicting everything liberal democracy is supposed to stand for. (The almost irrelevant OSCE did say the TV ban needs to be reversed.) In another demonstration of Kiev's ridiculous behavior, the parliament voted to freeze all Russian assets, ban Russian internet activity, prevent Russian goods from entering the country, threatening to also block entrance by Russian citizens and giving security personnel the right to shoot without warning.

Such behavior is explained by the presence, within the ruling coalition, of self-proclaimed Neo-Nazis. (Though they shout their beliefs from the rooftops, the Western does not report them.) Recently, Andriy Biletsky, the commander of the Azov special battalion, who in June said Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's decision to cease fire in the east of Ukraine was a strategic mistake, penned a commentary titled: "A crusade against the Semite-led Untermenschen, that included this sentence: "The historic mission of our nation in this critical moment is to lead the White Races of the world in a final crusade for their survival." A former history student and amateur boxer, Mr Biletsky also heads the Ukrainian parliamentary group called The Social National Assembly (for Social National, read National Socialist").

Even more than the horrific pictures of the Ukraine tragedy circulating on the web, declarations such as these - and there have been many since the early days of the coup - show that Ukraine is not only not part of Europe, it is not even part of the 21st century: its suited liberals rely on the extreme-right's thugs, failing to realize that even those in the West who agree with them would not publicize the slogans of Nazi Germany.

Meanwhile, a few more cracks are appearing in the Atlantic Alliance: Latin America, heretofore Washington's 'backyard', is stepping into the sanctions breach, ready to sell the foods Russia can no longer buy from the EU. And as Poland and Lithuania get ready to sue the EU for their export losses, Putin is negotiating a free trade zone with Egypt's new president, former General Al-Sisi - a good example of 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend' that is sure to co*k a snoot at Washington, not least because it suggests that Putin's planned Eurasian Community could also be open to the Arab world.