



## **The American Conservative: Washington needs to get closer to Moscow**

Kirill Grishin

September 15th, 2021

Washington, waging the Cold War on two fronts, is scattering strategic resources. The United States urgently needs to begin rapprochement with Russia. Not for the sake of sincerity. To prevent Moscow and Beijing from being “friends”.

“Waiting for an answer”. Lavrov explained the call to the Foreign Ministry of the US Ambassador

The aggressive policies of the United States, expressed in trade disputes with China and diplomatic scandals with Russia, give America’s rivals the edge, writes Ted Galen Carpenter, senior fellow in foreign and defense policy at the Cato Institute, in an article for The American Conservative. Moscow and Beijing are building up economic and military ties. The Russian-Chinese alliance will be stronger if a full-scale conflict breaks out. Therefore, the White House needs to clearly define which state to focus on. And it would be better if it was China with its large economy, which puts Washington in front of the need to pursue a much more peaceful policy towards Moscow, Carpenter said.

Simply put, the United States is faced with a choice: with which of the two countries – Russia or China – to try, at least outwardly, to establish a more constructive agenda. And it is certainly desirable that those with whom they do not do this should not find out about the true intentions of America.

The United States, as has been heard from there more than once, is quite afraid of the rapprochement between Moscow and Beijing. And so they want to drive not so much a wedge into the relationship between them, but bringing one a little closer to themselves, at the same time pushing the other away. Obviously, focusing on the PRC means making efforts to contain it economically. If this is the case, then with a high degree of probability, the trade and economic friction between the United States in the state and corporate plane with China will grow.

But moving closer to Russia, as Carpenter points out, is certainly a big challenge. Potentially even a tectonic shift. Again, given how much anti-Russian from Washington has been declared, signed and printed over the past few years. And if this is to be done, then some noticeable public effort must be made. And now they can be interpreted as the weakness of the US administration. Yet the analyst's proposal is difficult to implement, but not impossible.

After all, we have not yet forgotten with what hooting the American troops were leaving Afghanistan. This is the "image Titanic" of the Pentagon. He gave the back, as it was the last time in Vietnam. Well, since something like this happened, why shouldn't the United States surprise itself, and the whole world again? Why not start melting the ice in relations with Moscow? Moreover, the June Russia-US summit in Geneva gave slightly more reasons for restrained optimism than for pessimism.

But if we are talking about the potential improvement of relations between Washington and Moscow, then we cannot do without Kiev. And the Ukrainian theme for Washington is becoming less and less important in terms of the image, and more and more wasteful – in the administrative sense. After all, Kiev is pretty much burying itself in its anti-Russian bravado, speculating on "agreements" with the US, then with NATO, which in fact did not exist. All this for the White House lowers the status of the Ukrainian direction.

The same Carpenter, on the eve of the talks between Volodymyr Zelensky and Joe Biden, opened the eyes of the American political bomb to the futility of supporting the Ukrainian project. In particular, he noted that Kiev does not consider Kiev either a formal or a de facto ally of Washington, despite the sale of weapons and other support. Therefore, according to the political analyst, Kiev is confident that, if necessary, it will be supported by the United States and NATO, allowing itself such bold behavior. Like, the "elders" will stand up. But they, it turns out, are not ready to "harness" for the "junior". Zelensky still reflects that he has not received specifics about Ukraine's accession to NATO. Did anyone even promise him it?

However, it is clear that if Washington puts the current Kiev under control, this, of course, does not automatically bring it closer to Moscow. But, at least, it will create a calmer informational background for the gradual building of diplomatic dialogue.