

Anglo-American War Party Seeks To Blow Up Ukraine, Wreck U.S.-Russian Prospects

Feb. 20—Three years ago, on Feb. 22, 2014, the prolonged, increasingly violent Euromaidan *coup d'état* was completed in Ukraine against the country's elected President Victor Yanukovich. His life in peril as commandoes from the so-called Maidan Self-Defense Forces threatened to storm his residence at dawn if he didn't quit, yet unwilling to use military force to crush the thousands of demonstrators still in the Maidan (Independence Square) in downtown Kiev, Yanukovich fled the capital. Unable to regroup in the northeastern city of Kharkov or his native Donetsk, he ultimately sought asylum in Russia.

The coup of November 2013-February 2014 was built on the precedent of Ukraine's 2004 Orange Revolution, when Yanukovich's first election had been challenged as fraudulent by a Maidan demonstration, on the color revolution model of Anglo-American financier George Soros and the American professional organizer Gene Sharp. The demonstrators in December 2004 forced a revote, which Yanukovich lost. Within months, the victorious Orange revolutionaries were squabbling over power, as the Ukrainian economy continued to dive under their deregulation and privatization policies, and

kowtowing to the austerity demands of the International Monetary Fund. Yanukovich ran again in 2010 and won.

But the more than 2000 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Ukraine, funded by the U.S. government, the UK, the EU, and Soros's private Open Society projects, continued to shape public opinion in Ukraine after the Orange Revolution. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland boasted that US\$5 billion had gone into Ukraine through State Department channels alone, much of it, as the Ukrainian-born Russian economist Sergei Glazyev put it, issued in the form of grants to develop an intellectual community of experts, oriented against the Russian Federation and directed toward shaping Russophobic attitudes in Ukrainian society.

The new dimension in the Euromaidan, one that was pre-planned, was violent provocations and ultimately a violent overthrow of the government. Yanukovich's November 2013 decision to delay signing an Association Agreement with the European Union, after he realized that it would damage Ukraine's economy, was taken as the pretext for a full-scale coup. The Maidan organizers poured into central Kiev and announced



creativecommons/tandalov.com

Neo-Nazi protestors in the Maidan, January 2014.

they would not leave until the decision was rescinded and Yanukovych left office.

While many people came to the Maidan waving EU flags and were full of hope for a better life, the paramilitary groups, who repeatedly escalated the violence and sabotaged every interim agreement to resolve the standoff, marched under the red and black flag of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN), the mid-20th-century fascist movement of Stepan Bandera. The OUN had collaborated with the Nazis during World War II and carried out the ethnic-cleansing mass murder of Poles and Jews on its own, as well. These neo-Nazi groups called themselves Right Sector; their formation and build-up during 1991-2013 stemmed directly out of funding to Bandera's followers by MI6 and the Allen Dulles wing of the American CIA during the Cold War.

It was the coup-installed regime's immediate move to demote the Russian language, which is spoken throughout much of Ukraine, from its status as a second official language, and a series of attacks by Right Sector in Crimea and the eastern industrial region called the

Donbass, that set off a momentous cascade of events in 2014. By mid-March, Crimea had seceded from Ukraine and voted to join the Russian Federation. In the Donbass, the autonomous Donetsk Peoples Republic (DPR) and Lugansk Peoples Republic (LPR) were declared, rejecting the Kiev coup and laying claim to the major cities and much of the territory of those two districts. At least ten thousand people have died in the ensuing civil war, as Kiev sent army units and Right Sector-based battalions into the Donbass to attempt to quell the Donbass militias' uprising.

Unfrozen conflict

In February 2015, negotiations held in the capital of Belarus and conducted by the leaders of France, Germany, Russia, and Ukraine, reached the Minsk II agreement between Kiev and the Donbass republics, for a ceasefire and prospective political settlement in that region. Heavy weaponry began to be pulled back from the line of contact between their respective military forces.

The ceasefire has been overseen and monitored, since then, by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), an East-West club dating back to the 1970s. Disagreements remained over the meaning of the Minsk II commitment to Constitutional changes in Ukraine, allowing extreme autonomy for the DPR and LPR. To date, the radical nationalists in the Ukrainian Parliament, with Right Sector figures among them, have refused to make such revisions. Nonetheless, the fighting and huge civilian loss of life had abated over the past two years, as if the Donbass were becoming one of ECE's notorious frozen conflicts.

In December 2016, as President-elect Donald Trump continued to signal his wish for normalizing relations with Russia, the Donbass began to heat up again. The initiative came from the Kiev side. Even pro-Maidan analysts reported, as the *Kyiv Post* did on Jan. 26, that Ukrainian forces have staged what has become known as a creeping offensive to regain control over territory in the gray zone, the no-man's land that divides separatist and government forces in the eastern regions of Donetsk and Lugansk.

Analysts at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a U.S. Government-funded outlet, acknowledged that pro-Kiev troops have sparked bloody clashes with the Donbass forces. Alexander Hug, deputy chief of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission for Ukraine, reported that Kiev's forces had positioned large-caliber artillery including towed howitzers, main battle tanks, and multiple-launch rocket systems banned under the Minsk deal in the open with impunity.

With the neo-Nazi Right Sector and its offshoot battalions, it is never easy to say exactly who has provided the impetus for their actions. But a look around London and Washington quickly turns up who is cheering them on.

U.S. war party Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham (Republicans), along with Obama-ite Democratic Senator Amy Klobuchar, spent New Year's Eve with Kiev troops near the front line with the DPR. They also toured the Baltic countries, where NATO's latest military build-up is under way. On Feb. 2, McCain issued a letter to President Trump, ignoring the OSCE report, and blaming the Donbass escalation on Russia and its proxy forces, demanding that the U.S.A. supply Kiev with "defensive lethal assistance" weapons.

Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko, on Feb. 1, launched a round of grandstanding about his intention to hold a referendum in Ukraine on joining NATO. Prime Minister Volodymyr Hroysman visited NATO

Headquarters in Brussels on Feb. 9, to meet with NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller, formerly an under secretary of state in the Obama Administration.

Atlanticist think-tankers chimed in, with a barrage of publications "warning" that Trump will make a deal over Ukraine: James Sherr of Chatham House in the UK sounded an alarm against pre-emptive compromise over Ukraine; Russian anti-Putin analyst Pavel Felgenhauer, writing for the neoconservative Jamestown Foundation's *Eurasia Daily Monitor*, wailed, "If Trump hands over Ukraine, he will make Russia great again;" Adrian Karatnycky of the Atlantic Council pre-emptively accused Trump of preparing to sell out Ukraine by lifting sanctions on Russia while, so he claimed, Russian-backed forces started a brutal offensive within Ukraine.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov devoted nearly half of his Feb. 12 Sunday prime time interview on Russia's NTV channel to a measured discussion of Ukraine. Speaking of the recent escalation, Lavrov said, "The only advantage I see in this situation, which we arrived at with much bloodshed and after many months, even years of experiments, is that the West is finally beginning to understand what the Ukrainian government is all about and what its assurances of being willing to comply with the Minsk agreements are worth."

President Trump, for his part, in his Feb. 16 press conference, after repeated goading by the press to treat Russia as the enemy, responded:

We're a very powerful nuclear country and so are they. I have been briefed. And I can tell you, one thing about a briefing that we're allowed to say, because anybody that ever read the most basic book can say it: nuclear holocaust would be like no other. They're a very powerful nuclear country, and so are we.

Dr. Natalia Vitrenko, the Ukrainian economist who has battled the Maidan regime from its outset, wrote in an open letter to Trump immediately after his election:

I greatly hope that you will abandon, as undemocratic and intolerable, the planning and implementation of *coups d'état* through color revolutions, such as has been done by U.S. agencies twice in Ukraine. I would like to see you build relations with Russia and China not, as enemies or rivals, but as partners and allies in the name of peace, justice and prosperity for the entirety of

our planet Earth. I hope very much, that you will also make a positive influence on what is happening in Ukraine. Our people are suffering badly from war, extreme poverty, corruption, political repressions, and the rampaging of neo-Nazis. The outgoing U.S. Administration kept stirring up the people of Ukraine against Russia,

thereby inciting a war between our fraternal peoples, one that unquestionably threatens to trigger a Third World War. The whole world awaits with hope, for you to carry out your promises with specific actions to ensure the welfare of every American and promote peace and prosperity for all mankind.