

Putin's War-whoop: The impending clash with Russia

Contributed by [Rich](#)

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By **Mike Whitney**

It is world in which there is one master, one sovereign--- one center of authority, one center of force, one center of decision-making. And at the end of the day this is pernicious not only for all those within this system, but also for the sovereign itself because it destroys itself from within.

06/21/07 "ICH" -- --- "What is a 'unipolar' world? It has nothing in common with democracy, which is the power of the majority in respect to the interests and opinions of the minority.

In Russia , we are constantly being lectured about democracy. But for some reason those who teach us do not want to learn themselves." Russian President Vladimir Putin's address to the Munich Conference on Security Policy 2-10-07

The deployment of the US Missile Defense System in Eastern Europe is a de-facto declaration of war on the Russian Federation . As Russian President Putin said in a recent press conference, "If this missile system is put in place, it will work automatically with the entire nuclear capability of the United States . It will be an integral part of the US nuclear capability." This will disrupt the current configuration of international security and force Russia to begin work on a new regime of tactical nuclear weapons. This is a very serious development. Russia will now have to rethink its current policy vis a vis the United States and develop a long-range strategy for fending off further hostile encroachments into former-Soviet states by NATO.

Welcome to the new Cold War.

Putin cannot ignore the gravity of the proposed system or the threat it poses to Russia 's national security. Bush's Missile Defense is not defensive at all, but offensive. It thrusts US military bases--with nuclear infrastructure and radar--up to Russia 's doorstep giving the US a clear advantage in "first-strike" capability. That means that Washington will be able to intimidate Russia on issues that are of critical international importance. Putin cannot allow this. He must force Bush to remove this dagger held to Moscow 's throat.

Bush's Pyrrhic Victory at the G-8

The central issues on the docket at the G-8 meetings were downplayed in the media. The press primarily focused its attention on the “anticipated” conflict between Bush and Putin. But, the brouhaha never materialized; both were respectful and gracious.

President Bush, however, was adamant that his plan for missile defense in Czechoslovakia and Poland would go ahead according to schedule. Putin, for the most part remained politely silent. His objections were censored in the media.

But less than 10 hours after the closing ceremonies of the G-8, Putin fired off the first salvo in what will certainly be remembered as “the war that brought down the Empire”.

Putin addressed 200 corporate leaders at the International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg and his comments left little doubt that he had already settled on a plan for countering Bush’s missile shield in the Czech Republic .

Putin’s speech articulated his vision of a “Moscow-centered” new world order which would create a “new balance of power”—less dependent on Washington .

He said, “The new architecture of economic relations requires a completely new approach. Russia intends to become an alternative global financial center and to make the ruble a reserve currency for central banks.”

“The world is changing before our eyes.” Countries that yesterday seemed hopelessly behind are today the fastest growing economies of the world. Institutions such as the World Trade Organization and the IMF are “archaic, undemocratic and inflexible”. They don’t “reflect the new balance of power.”

Putin's speech is defiant rejection of the present system. We can be sure that it has not passed unnoticed by anxious mandarins in the US political establishment. Russia is announcing the beginning of an asymmetrical war; designed to cripple the United States economically, weaken the institutions which have traditionally enhanced its wealth, and precipitate a shift of global power away from Washington .

Putin’s challenge to the US dollar is particularly worrisome. He emphasizes the inherent unfairness of the current system, which relies almost entirely on the dollar and which has an extremely negative effect on many smaller countries’ economies and financial reserves.

“There can be only one answer to this challenge,” he said. “The creation of several world currencies and several financial centers.”

Putin’s remarks are a direct attack on the dollar and its position as the de facto international currency. He imagines a world where goods and resources are traded in rubles or “baskets of

currencies”--not just greenbacks. This would create greater parity between the countries and, hence, a more even distribution of power.

Putin's vision is a clear threat to America 's ongoing economic dominance. Already, in the last few months, Norway , Iran , Syria , UAE, Kuwait , and Venezuela have announced that they are either cutting back on their USD reserves or converting from the greenback to the euro or a “basket of currencies”. Dollar hegemony is at the very center of American power, and yet, the downturn is visible everywhere. If the dollar loses its place as the world's “reserve currency”; the US will have to pay-down its monstrous current account deficit and live within its means. America will lose the ability to simply print fiat money and use it in exchange for valuable resources and manufactured goods. Putin is now openly challenging the monetary-system that provides the flow of oxygen to the American superpower.

Can he carry it off?

What kind of damage can Russia really inflict on the dollar or on the many lofty-sounding organizations (WTO, World Bank, IMF, NATO and Federal Reserve) which prop up the US Empire?

Russia 's power is mushrooming. Its GDP is leaping ahead at 8% per annum and by 2020 Russia will be among the five biggest economies in the world. It now has the third largest Forex reserves in the world and it is gradually moving away from the anemic dollar to euros and rubles. Nearly 10% of its wealth is currently in gold.

Russia has also overtaken Saudi Arabia as the world's leading supplier of petroleum. It produces 13% of the world's daily output and has the world's largest reserves of natural gas. In fact, Putin has worked energetically to create the world's first Natural Gas cartel—an alliance between Russia , Qatar , Iran and Algeria . The group could potentially control 40% of the world's remaining natural gas and set prices as it sees fit.

Putin's ambitions are not limited to the energy sector either---although he has strengthened the country by turning away foreign investment and “re-nationalization” vital resources. As Pavel Korduban says in his recent article “Putin Harvests Political Dividends from Russian Economic Dynamism”; Putin intends to expand beyond energy and focus on technological modernization:

“The shift in official discourse to “innovations” reflects an attempt to reorient economic policy from the goal of consolidating the status of “energy superpower” to the emphasis on industrial modernization and catching up with the technological revolution. The key role in formulating this new policy is given to Sergei Ivanov, who promised that by the year 2020 Russia would gain leadership (measured as 10% of the world market) in such high-technology sectors as nuclear energy, shipbuilding, aircraft, satellites and delivery systems, and computer software.”

Putin has also strengthened ties with his Central Asian neighbors and engaged in “cooperative” military maneuvers with China .

“Last month it signed deals with Turkmenistan , Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to revive the Soviet-era united system of gas pipelines, which will help Russia strengthen its role of the monopoly supplier from the region”. (Reuters) He has transformed the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) into a formidable economic-military alliance capable of resisting foreign intervention in Central Asia by the United States and NATO.

The CIS is bound to play a major role in regional issues as the real motives behind the “war on terror” are exposed and America's geopolitical objectives in Central Asia become clearer. So far, Washington has established its military bases and outposts throughout the region with impunity. But the mood is darkening in Moscow and Beijing and there may be changes in the future. We should also remember that Putin is surrounded by ex-KGB agents and Soviet-era hardliners. They’ve never trusted America's motives and now they can point to the new US bases, the “colored-coded” revolutions, the broken treaties and the projected missile defense system--to prove that Uncle Sam is “up to no good”.

Putin sees himself as leading a global insurgency against the US Empire. He represents the emerging-market economies of China , India and Brazil . These 4 nations will progressively overtake the “old order”. Last year 60% of the world's output was produced outside the G-7 countries. According to Goldman Sachs, by 2050 Brazil , Russia , India and China will be the world's leading economies.

The transition from “superpower rule” is already underway. The centers of geopolitical power are shifting like giant tectonic plates. The trend is irreversible. The deployment of Bush’s missile defense system will only hasten the decline of the “unipolar-model” by triggering an asymmetrical war, where Forex reserves, vital resources and political maneuvering will be used as the weapons-of-choice.

War with Russia is pointless and preventable. There are better choices than confrontation.

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darkfuture: ...



This can be seen as nothing more than the Americans preparations for war, to strengthen their foothold in foriegn lands.

Of course, they say, its aimed at the "bad guys", the "evildoers", the "enemies of freedom" , but its a load of bull****. America is the most powerful military power in

the world, armed to their teeth with state of the art weapons technology...and they still feel so threatened by a bunch of imagined foes??? And the general public do not seem to get it??? The world has gone mad.

Russia, wont take this lying down. Considering they have their own scores to settle with America, its only a matter of time before theyve had enough and snap back.

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June 22, 2007

juancarloscruz2005: Bush and Neocons war-hawks need to read Fredrich Nietzsche's books. Nietzsche clearly says that Russia will be a world-power



Nietzsche the great prophetic philosopher, the philosopher of the future, like Karl Marx, Hegel, and other scientists, said that Russia was a nation with a great future. Russia's society is full of will power, will, as opposed to the German society who according to Nietzsche suffered the decadence and the destruction by alcohol.

So prepare my friends for a different future, he also talked about the legislators of the world, the aristocrats of the future, but note the legislators of the world, the supermen race, will be the free and liberated mankind, along with its great leaders like Chavez, Evo Morales, etc. who will lead mankind to be architects of their own destiny and not the old world which was ruled by a group of kings, oligarchs, counts, dukes, feudal lords, CEO lords, presidents, senators. But a libertarian-humanist collective world, where society will work together individualist and collectively at the same time

PS: i am sorry that neocons and neocon-followers are so dumb and didn't study Nietzsche, Hegelianism, Marxism, Freud, Darwin, Descartes, Heddieger, Dostoyesky, Maya Calendars, etc. which even if not absolute true some how explain how this world works ;-)

They neocons and neocon followers think that the world will be just like it is now forerver, ruled by oligarchs and fascists haha

Juan Carlos

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June 22, 2007

Cat: Putin: A strong, Powerful, Dominant Male



Juan Carlos:

i am sorry that neocons and neocon-followers are so dumb and didn't study Nietzsche, Hegelianism,

Leo Strauss who taught at the university of Chicago, and where some of the neo-con ideology originates, was very big on Nietzsche and Hegel. He was a "philosopher". I would re-check on Nietzsche and Hegel, who were very exonerated by the Nazi Fascists, and New World Banker Class.

Putin is a Dominant, Strong, and powerful male. If the West wants to continue to be in the "game" they need more Male Leaders that are in Putin's league. The Puppet "leaders" of the west are just that, puppets. They are installed by the CFR, Bankers, and the New World Elite of Europe and America to do the bidding of an invisible hand. This is NO LONGER working, as if it ever really was. It is eroding the whole society within and diminishing the West's ability to have healthy economic and political relations with the rest of the world.

Central Control of Power in economic, political, and foreign relations by the few (the result of which we see in unilateralism) will not work. It cannot work. Putin has it right in how he is going about building his nation's power, through more diversifying of currencies and building good relations with his allies that benefit each, and by thinking of his nation's best interests.

Compare to Bush, jr. Just looking at Bush, you see weakness, self interest, arrogance, unintelligent, and over-all BAD genetics, Obviously.

The Plutocrats that are running the West are being out-smarted by the East. This does not mean that a new Power structure based on the above emerging power nations will be somehow better. We cannot know that yet. It may turn very ugly as Power seems to corrupt and corrupt absolutely and we will see how Putin, Lula, Chavez, and the Chinese and Asia countries handle their new found power.

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June 22, 2007

Legolas_Greenleaf: America is definitely finished,

but it won't go down without starting a nuclear war against anyone (China, Russia) that it perceives as a threat/replacement. Hopefully - and i feel pretty



confident about this given the foreseeable crop of "electable" politicians - future US administrations will be just as moronic as this one, and the good guys (Asia, Africa, SA, Eastern Europe, etc) will easily prevail.

Death to America, a hundred times over. Those of you with the means to leave, leave, those without, move somewhere where there are no silos or large population centres.

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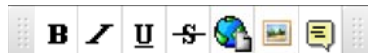
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