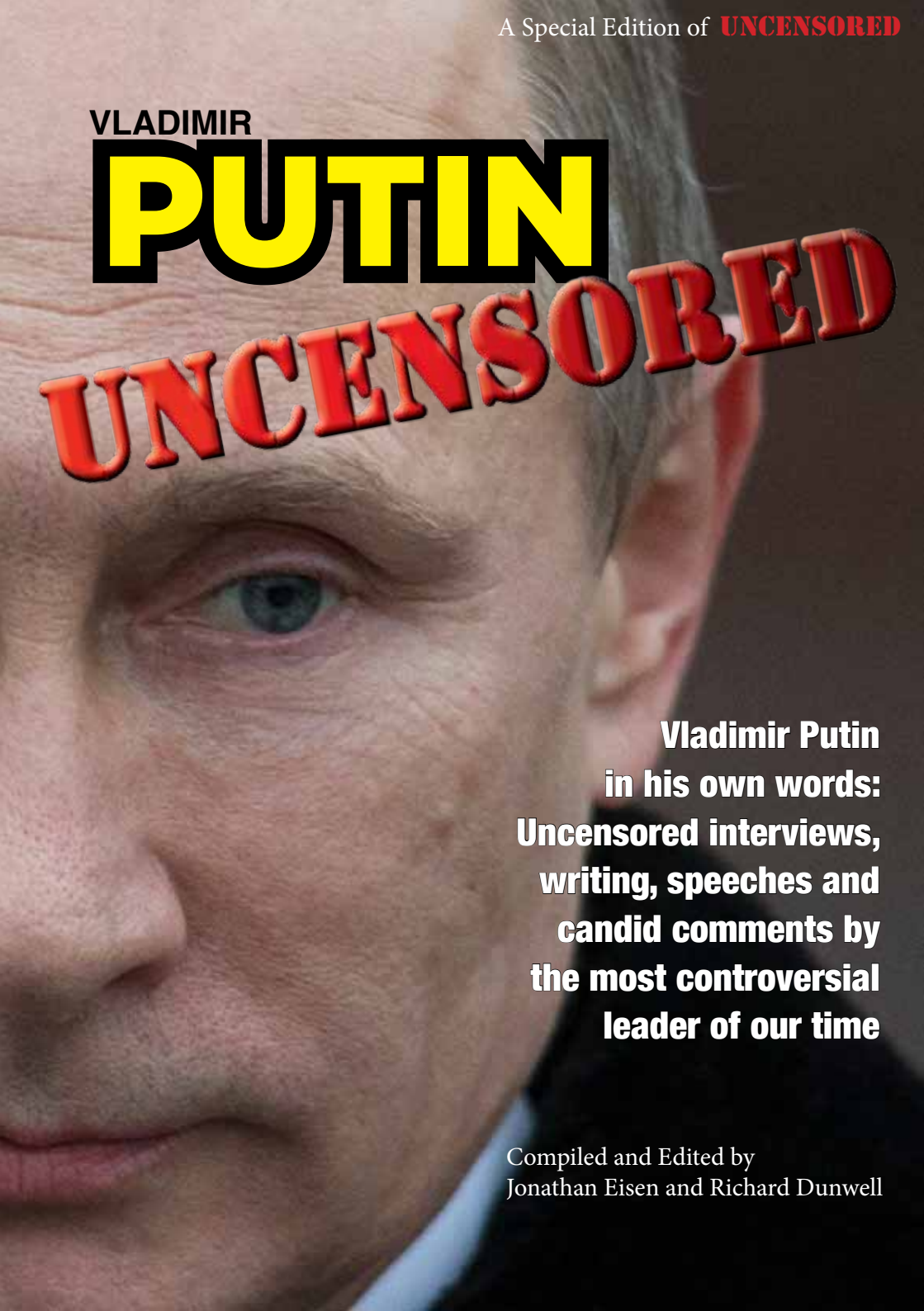
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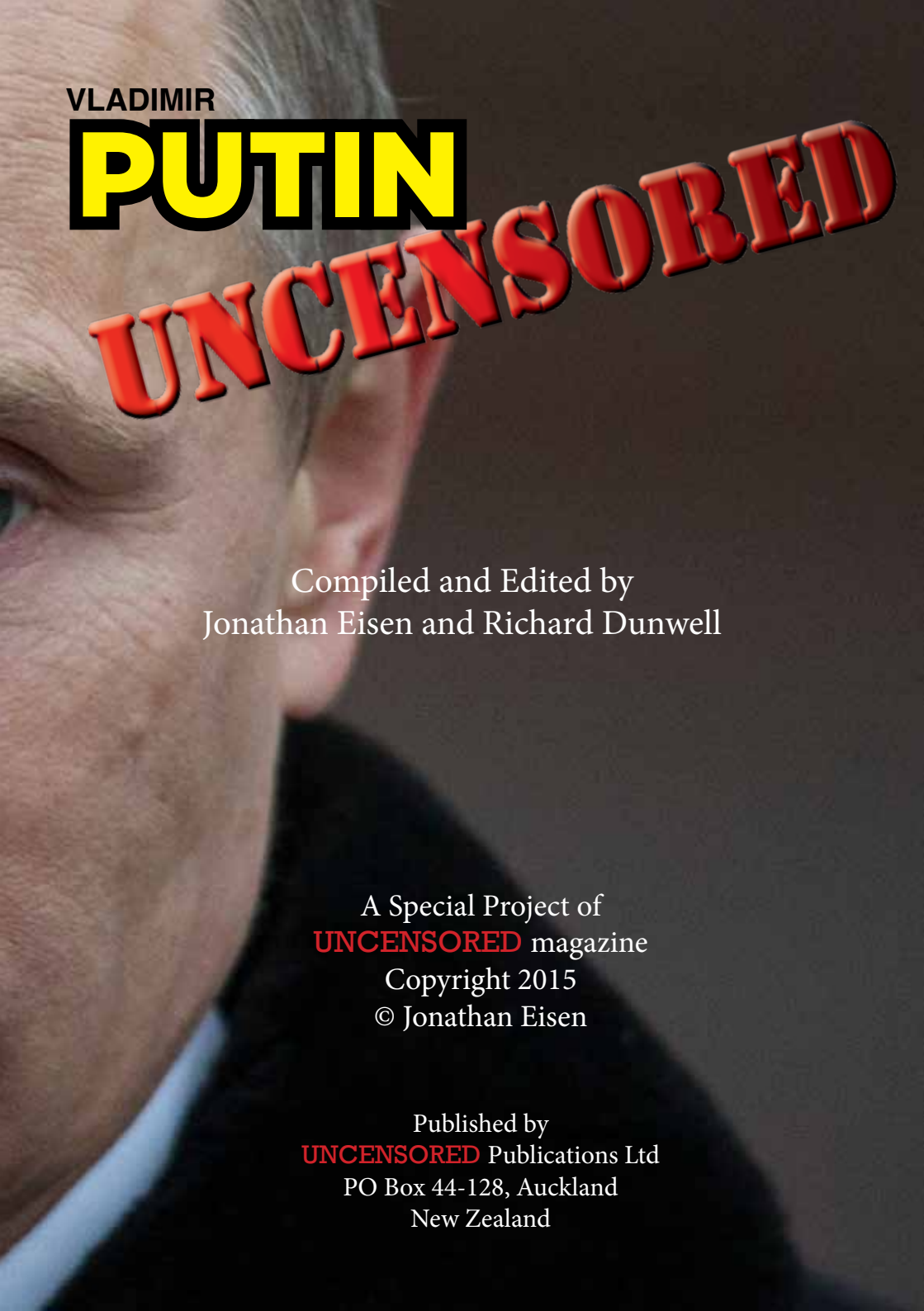
VLADIMIR PUTIN UNCENSORED



Vladimir Putin in his own words: Uncensored interviews, writing, speeches and candid comments by the most controversial leader of our time

Compiled and Edited by
Jonathan Eisen and Richard Dunwell





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Sometimes it is necessary to be lonely in order to prove that you are right.

– Vladimir Putin

PREFACE

Beginnings

While the US agenda for "total control of the world" has been in the works for many, many years, the current phase – some call it the "end game" – began with the preparation for 9/11 which was designed to inaugurate the "long war" (a term coined by Mr Cheney). The long war was instituted to bring down the Moslem world, and turn it into total chaos. It's been working.

Starting with the war on Iraq, the US and its putative allies have been creating havoc throughout the Moslem world with the ultimate goal being the destuction of Iran, and then Russia itself.

"Colour revolutions" from Algeria to Egypt to Syria were fomented and financed in large part by the US government with the help of people like billionaire George Soros.


Muammar Kaddafi

The overthrow of the Libyan government and horrific murder President Muammar Khaddafi came next; the Libyan people were "liberated" and the country has been in turmoil ever since.

In fact, on schedule, many of the Arab countries have now been reduced to rubble, and Iraq, now fighting a US and Israel backed ISIS (or ISIL), is currently being divided into three "provinces". The Israeli (and "neocon") agenda called for this to happen as far back as 1982.

Syria was "color revolutioned" for a while, but when that didn't work to overthrow Asad, the mercenaries were sent in to wreak havoc on cities and villages, taking down almost the entire Syrian infrastructure in the process. The ever-mendacious Western media called it a "civil war". When Syria's Assad government held on, and Assad's military began to get the upper hand in the war, the western powers came up with the phony "poison gas" excuse to bomb that country to "protect the people." (It eventually emerged that the US-Israel-Saudi-Turkish-supported "rebel" mercenaries did it.)


Bashar al-Assad

It was thanks to Vladimir Putin that the bombing of Syria and hence a general war was averted. He was the one who conceived the idea to remove all excuses the west had for bombing Syria by convincing Assad to surrender all his chemical weapons stores to international agencies. Thus, a larger war was temporarily averted.

However, Putin's putative "partners" – he has used that term until recently – meanwhile were pouring an *admitted* $5 billion into the destabilisation and overthrow of the legitimate, elected government of Ukraine, hiring neo-Nazis ("Right Sector") and other nefarious groups to murder their way into government.

The false flag in Kiev was the murder of 110 people, including unarmed police, by neo-nazi snipers (now in the new government). The killings were blamed on the Yonukovich government, which was forced to resign.

So the scheme worked, and the govern-

ment fell, although soon thereafter the Ukrainian province of Crimea was able to hold a referendum to rejoin Russia, which it did early in 2014. Other areas of eastern Ukraine also held referendums, but the new rulers in Kiev stopped the results of these votes from implementation. They have been bombing, strafing and otherwise terrorizing those areas ever since. The "independent-minded" (they were also asking for federation, both of which were denied) are mostly ethnically Russian and have now been earmarked by the new Kiev "authorities" for extermination.

At this writing, thousands of Eastern Ukrainians have been murdered and their cities and villages lie in ruins. A half million refugees have sought refuge in Russia.

In every instance, Mr Putin has been proven right and has acted wisely and ethically; and in every instance the US and its "handlers" have been proven not only wrong, but pathologically wrong.

Putin has thus far taken the high road: presenting the facts to the world, working with the UN, offering peaceful solutions to the unceasing war of his western "partners", and offering honest negotiations to the US and Europe.

He has even offered an open hand to the US-installed coup in Ukraine.

He knows that the suffering that is being wrought on the people of Ukraine will only get much, much worse if the current situation continues along its current trajectory.

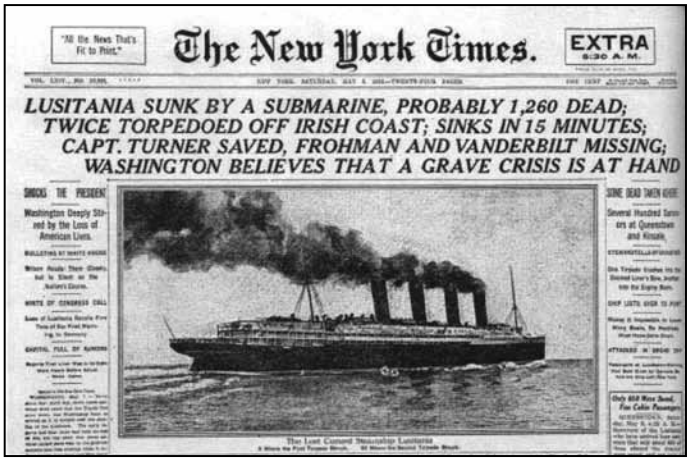
Which may be the whole point, as the western power elite apparently wants to have a nuclear war against Russia, with the total destruction of billions of human lives around the world. Indeed the very ecosystem itself is in mortal danger. Not only would "life as we know it" come to a firey end, but life itself would end, too, in its splendrous entirety.

Putin knows this, as do millions of Russians whose legacy from World War 2 left them with at least 20 million people dead.

He also knows that the western media – itself largely Zionist owned or controlled – is not telling the truth, yet again – about the true intentions of the US government.

False Flags

The US has used "false flags" (an attack on one's own assets to start a war) at least as far back as 1898, when one was used to start the "Spanish American War". (The Battleship *Maine* was conveniently blown up in Havana Harbor and blamed on Spain to kick off that particu-


"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

EXTRA
6:30 A.M.

LUSITANIA SUNK BY A SUBMARINE, PROBABLY 1,260 DEAD; TWICE TORPEDOED OFF IRISH COAST; SINKS IN 15 MINUTES; CAPT. TURNER SAVED, FROHMAN AND VANDERBILT MISSING; WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT A GRAVE CRISIS IS AT HAND

SHOCKS THE PRESIDENT

Washington Deeply Stirred by the Loss of American Lives.

lar war of conquest. The US won the war and wrested Cuba and the Philippines from Spain.)

It was another episode of what the American ideologues termed "Manifest Destiny", a meme that underpinned the "Monroe Doctrine" of President James Monroe in the 19th century to paint American imperialism in quasi religious colours.

The architects of World War One used the sinking of the British (munitions-carrying) passenger liner *Lusitania* to kick off the American entry into the war between Germany and England. Winston Churchill and his City of London banker handlers more than allegedly had a major role in that, using a passenger liner to transport munitions, against the express, publicly advertised warnings (in the US, no less!) by the German government.

World War 2 had its own false flags, starting with Pearl Harbor. The US had lured Japan into bombing Pearl Harbor by cutting off their oil and steel imports; the US knew weeks in advance, through communication intercepts as well as direct warnings from the Dutch as well as their own military, that the Japanese would be on their way to Hawaii. In anticipation they had moved all their new aircraft carriers out of the harbour and harm's way, while leaving their obsolete battleships in port moored close to each other in neat rows, to make for easier targets.

Many reputable historians have concluded that December 7, 1941, was no "surprise attack".

There are many more examples

The dramatic US escalation of the Vietnam war after John Kennedy's murder (again: blamed on the wrong person) was the result of a false flag, admitted to (many years later by ex Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara). It was known as "The Gulf of Tonkin Incident". Supposedly a US destroyer had been attacked by the North Vietnamese patrol boat.

It never happened, and millions of people died violent deaths before the war finally ended.

To date, US governments have lied repeatedly about 9/11, the biggest false flag of all time. Most people still don't realize that the WTC was brought down by "mini" nukes. The Russians know this, as do intelligence agencies the world over. In fact, one German intelligence agency wrote about it in 2002. To this day, first responders and clean up people are dying of cancers from radiation exposure and other hideous toxic exposures at the site.

The 9/11 event was actually *advocated* in 1997 by PNAC (Project for a New American Century) a neocon think tank with deep pockets and influence with the US government. Think Cheney, Feith and Wolfowitz. Their report stated than without a "new Pearl Harbor" it would be exceedingly difficult to conduct a "long war".

The "new Pearl Harbor" was, of course, 9/11. By 2001 many PNAC people were in the top levels of government.

The American government then serially lied about "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq; the Iraqis and the world is still paying for that lie. A million people or more are dead there, 8-10 million made homeless, an ecosystem wrecked and millions of additional lives destroyed and maimed for generations by radia-

tion poisoning from “depleted” uranium munitions. The “long war” envisioned by Mr Cheney had begun. It continues to this day.

The “false flag” shoot-down of Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 17 must be seen in light of the history of “false flag” events that have characterised the history of western military “adventures” for more than 100 years.

Vladimir Putin has been trying to get the truth out for many, many years – which is doubtless why he has been vilified and demonised by the western media.

This very same western media which went along with the lie that Saddam Hussein had “weapons of mass destruction”; that 9/11 was perpetrated by 19 Arabs and their diabetic mastermind living in a cave in Afghanistan; that the North Vietnamese had attacked a US destroyer; that the Assad government had “gassed his own people” – are now telling the world that MH 17 was shot down by the Ukrainian “rebels”.

Lies have always been the currency of government and mainstream media. The evidence for the foregoing has been there for generations, but most people have been either too comfortable in their paradigm or frightened of the consequences of asking deep questions to disturb themselves into actually investigating what is been sold to them as fact.

However, what the world is faced with now is a rapidly escalating crisis of unprecedented proportions, and a political leader who is being turned into the “enemy du jour” for daring to stand up for the truth. His words and actions have been twisted by western media and politicians to fit the agenda for war.

It’s time to read what he has said and written – unfiltered, unadorned and uncontaminated by “public relations” or agendas. This book is presented as an antidote to the lies that have been perpetrated on the world, lies that have sought to excuse the industrial strength murder of millions of people; lies that Obama and the rest of his government have perpetrated.



Lies that have put the world in dire jeopardy.

What strikes us about Putin is not only that he is a consummate politician, a master strategist and a brilliant mind – it is that he has a heart and a moral vision for his people and the world.

Read his own words and decide for yourself.

By Alcibiades Bilzerian

Vladimir Putin: The Other Side of the Story

Many Westerners have a negative view of Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, because of the unjust portrayal he receives in the Western media. If one were to believe everything they saw in the American media, they would probably think Putin to be a ruthless dictator who was anointed by birth rather than a politician born into a working class family with approval ratings higher than all of his Western counterparts.

Under Putin's eight-year reign the Russian economy grew every single year, with an overall GDP increase of more than 70%. During the same period, investments rose 125%, industry grew by 76%, and poverty decreased 50%. The average monthly salaries in Russia increased from $80 to $640, and the middle class grew from 8 million people to 55 million.

Analysts have credited these impressive economic achievements to strong macro-management, capital inflows, fiscal policy reform, and rising energy prices. (Russia is a large exporter of oil and gas.) Putin wisely reintroduced nuclear power and positioned Russia as an energy super power that Europe has come to rely on. He also invested heavily in Russian infrastructure, including pipelines. Among Putin's accomplishments was the introduction of a 13% flat tax and the reduction of the corporate tax rate from 35% to 24%. As a result, Putin has maintained extraordinarily high approval ratings from the Russian people, winning his second Presidency with 71% of the vote.

Putin's accomplishments are even more impressive when one realizes that he has had to deal with one of the fiercest mafias in the world. The Russian mafia led by notorious billionaire gangsters, who use dual citizenships in non-extradition countries such as Israel to thwart justice, are responsible for sex slavery, weapons trafficking, drug running, and the rampant corruption that has plagued Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union. Putin has consistently risked his life to challenge these gangsters and eventually saw charges brought against many of the criminal oligarchs. Regardless of these challenges, Putin's administration has consistently maintained a lower incarceration rate than the United States.

The US media routinely questions the integrity of the Russian election process and even mocked Russia for calling the last presidential election with only 25% of vote in; all while CNN and Fox have been calling Republican Primary elections with only 1% of the vote being counted. There is little to no proof that Putin has ever committed election fraud, but there is significant evidence that the American Republican Party has committed several documented cases of voter fraud against Ron Paul.

While Obama was winning a Nobel Peace Prize and perpetrating undeclared wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Putin was using every ounce of his influence to oppose unjust and internationally illegal wars. In 2003, Western powers used their political influence to invade Iraq, with no credible intelligence of weapons of mass destruction. The war eventually led to higher oil prices and the murder of one million innocent civilians. Cooler heads in the United Nations like Vladimir's Russia staunchly opposed the war and doubted the dubious intelligence from his rival leaders. Putin tried to prevent the disastrous Iraq war by vetoing resolutions in the UN, but the powerful Israeli-American lobby, AIPAC, convinced American politicians to invade without UN backing.

Just as in Iraq, Putin staunchly opposed the intervention in Libya, which has also turned out to be a humanitarian disaster. Libya went from an internationally law-abiding country to a fractionalized nation that is being controlled by radical elements. The country's infrastructure was seriously damaged, and far greater human rights abuses are being perpetrated now than ever took place under Gaddafi.

Now the American-Israeli lobby and mainstream media, are pushing for more undeclared wars in Syria and Iran. Both of which would increase the price of oil tremendously and likely lead to the downfall of the already frail world economy. Even though such an event would increase the price of Russia's main export, oil, Putin seems to care more about the humanitarian implications of such an intervention than the financial benefits for his nation. As such, Putin used Russia's seat on the UN security council to veto US backed resolutions on Syria. The blood-thirsty American media immediately condemned Putin as being obstructionist and starting a second cold war, but Putin remained above the petty warmongering and simply instructed the Americans to stop attempting to indulge in their "bellicose itch" to start more wars.

Putin's business acumen, just foreign policy decisions, and humanitarian leadership should be congratulated throughout the world. If only American Presidents could respect freedom and other nations' sovereignty like Vladimir Putin, the planet would be a lot more peaceful.

SOURCE: The Bilzerian Report (www.theblizrianreport.com)

Why Are They Demonising Vladimir Putin?

America needs enemies. In fact, for a hundred years or more it has been creating them – right, left and centre. If that sounds like a pathology to you, well ... it is. It's not foreign policy. It's just looney.

There is ample evidence to back this claim. The major American industry still in business is the "armaments" industry. America spends more on military than the 12 next countries – combined. If it's not Hitler, it's Ho Chi Minh, or Milosovitch or Saddam; if it's not Khaddafi, it's Bashir Assad; or Ahmadinijad. Somehow, they were all the "new Hitler". Now the designated enemy is Putin.

However, read what he, himself, has said and written, then see what he has done (and not done) and make up your own mind. – Ed



WEALTH

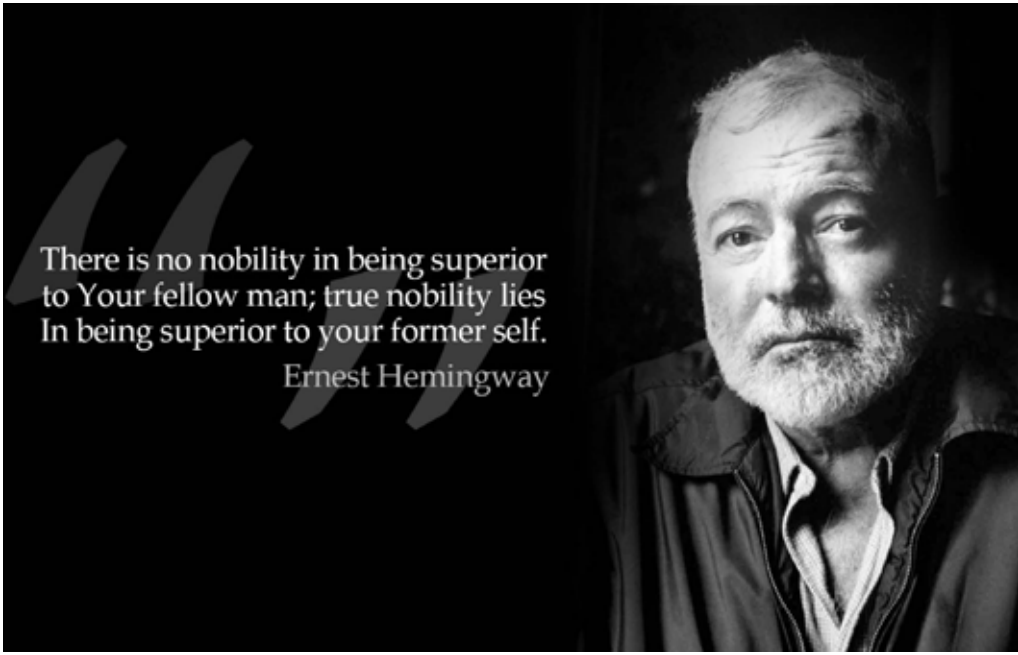
“I am the wealthiest man, not just in Europe, but in the whole world. I collect emotions. I am wealthy in that the people of Russia have twice entrusted me with the leadership of a great nation such as Russia – I believe that is my greatest wealth.”



INFLUENCES



“I have always loved and avidly read the novels of Jack London, Jules Verne and Ernest Hemingway. The characters depicted in their books, who are brave and resourceful people embarking on exciting adventures, definitely shaped my inner self and nourished my love for the outdoors.”



SOCIALISM



> "Any fourth grade history student knows socialism has failed in every country, at every time in history. President Obama and his Democrats are either idiots or deliberately trying to destroy their own economy."
>
> Vladimir Putin

"In the 20th century, the Soviet Union made the state's role absolute. In the long run, this made the Soviet economy totally uncompetitive. This lesson cost us dearly. I am sure nobody wants to see it repeated."

On budget deficits: "The unjustified swelling of the budgetary deficit and the accumulation of public debts are just as destructive as adventurous stock-jobbing."

On the criminal folly of America's (Fed's) ceaseless money printing: "Look at their (America's) trade balance, their debt, and budget. They turn on the printing press and flood the whole world with government bonds. There is no way we will act this way.... We don't have the luxury of such hooliganism.



The SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY of BUSINESS



“We need business to understand its social responsibility, that the main task and objective for a business is not to generate extra income and to become rich and transfer the money abroad, but to look and evaluate what a businessman has done for the country, for the people, on whose account he or she has become so rich.”



A soup kitchen in the USA during the Great Depression (circa 1930)

REGRETS ABOUT THE USSR

"People in Russia say that those who do not regret the collapse of the Soviet Union have no heart, and those that do regret it have no brain. We do not regret this, we simply state the fact and know that we need to look ahead, not backwards. We will not allow the past to drag us down and stop us from moving ahead. We understand where we should move. But we must act based on a clear understanding of what happened."

PUTIN: "I see that not everyone in the West has understood that the Soviet Union has disappeared from the political map of the world and that a new country has emerged with new humanist and ideological principles at the foundation of its existence."

Source: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin_6.



Vladimir Lenin, (*nee* Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov) Communist Revolutionary and first leader of the new USSR in 1917

REVOLUTION





“We all should be aware of the fact that when revolutionary, not evolutionary, changes come, things can get even worse. The intelligentsia should be aware of this. And it is the intelligentsia specifically that should keep this in mind and prevent society from radical steps and revolutions of all kind.”

“We’ve had enough of it! We’ve seen so many revolutions and wars. We need decades of calm and harmonious development.”



Leon Trotsky (nee Lev Davidovich Bronshtein) Communist revolutionary in Ukraine, assassinated by orders of Josef Stalin in 1940.

JEWS IN THE POLITBURO

Russian president Vladimir Putin has said that Jews made up “80 to 85 percent of the first government of the Soviet Union” following the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

Putin’s speech, made on June 13, 2013, was reported by the official Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an article six days later dealing with Putin’s visit to the Moscow “Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center.”

According to the JTA report, Putin said with reference to a library belonging to Rabbi Joseph I. Schneerson, the late leader of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement, that he **“thought about something just now: The decision to nationalize this library was made by the first Soviet government, whose composition was 80-85 percent Jewish.”**



World War I (Commemorative Speech)

A century ago on this day, Russia found itself obliged to enter World War I. Today, we are unveiling this monument to its heroes – Russian soldiers and officers. We are unveiling the monument here on Poklonnaya Gora, a site that preserves our grateful memory of Russian military glory



and of those who at various moments in our country's history have defended its independence, dignity and freedom.

The World War I soldier and his comrades in arms have their place of honour here, too. It was the fate of many of them to later fight again on the frontlines in the Great Patriotic War. These experienced veterans inspired and brought out the best in the young soldiers and passed on to them the traditions of military comradeship and brotherhood and the traditions of military honour.

The Russian army's great values and the heroic experience of the generation who fought in World War I played a big part in our people's spiritual and moral upsurge at that moment. This was a generation that was fated to go through not just the difficult trials of the first global world war, but also the revolutionary upheaval and fratricidal civil war that split our country and changed its destiny.

But their feats and their sacrifices in Russia's name were forgotten for long years. World War I itself, which the rest of the world calls the Great War, was erased from our country's history and was labelled simply 'imperialist'.

Today, we are restoring the historical truth about World War I and are discovering countless examples of personal courage and military skill, and the true patriotism of Russia's soldiers and officers and the whole of Russian society. We are discovering the role Russia played in that difficult and epoch-changing time for the world, especially in the pre-war years. And what we see reflects very clearly the defining features of our country and our people.

Russia over many centuries supported strong and trusting relations between countries. This was the case on the eve of World War I too, when Russia did everything it could to convince Europe to find a peaceful and bloodless solution to the conflict between Serbia and Austro-Hungary. But Russia's calls went unheeded and our country had no choice but to rise to the challenge, defend a brotherly Slavic people and protect our own country and people from the foreign threat.

Russia stayed true to its duties as an ally. The Russian offensives in Prussia and Galicia upset the adversary's plans and made it possible for our allies to hold the front and defend Paris. The enemy was forced to turn its attention and direct a

large part of its forces east where Russian regiments put up the fiercest possible struggle. Russia withstood the attack and was then able to launch an offensive. The Brusilov offensive became famous throughout the whole world.

But this victory was stolen from our country. It was stolen by those who called for the defeat of their homeland and army, who sowed division inside Russia and sought only power for themselves, betraying the national interests.

Today, we are restoring the links in time, making our history a single flow once more, in which World War I and its generals and soldiers have the place they deserve, and our hearts hold the sacred memory that they rightfully earned in those war years. As the saying goes, "better late than never." Justice is finally triumphing in the books and textbooks, in the media and on cinema screens, and of course, in this monument that we are unveiling here today.

This must continue. There is a need for large-scale educational work and serious archival research. This will help us to learn more about the exact causes of the war and its events and identify the names of all who took part, so that present and future generations can learn about the fate of their own forebears and know their family's history.

It is very important to properly immortalise the memory of our soldiers, and find and bring order to World War I burial sites, of which there are hundreds in Russia. They are the resting places of soldiers from many countries, all of whom are forever bound together now by this common tragedy.

This tragedy reminds us what happens when aggression, selfishness and the unbridled ambitions of national leaders and political establishments push common sense aside, so that instead of preserving the world's most prosperous continent, Europe, they lead it towards danger. It is worth remembering this today.

World history gives us so many examples of what a terrible price we pay for refusing to listen to each other, or for trampling on others' rights and freedoms and lawful interests in the name of our own interests and ambitions. It would be good if we could learn to open our eyes and to calculate at least a step ahead.

It is long since time that humanity learned and accepted the single great truth that violence breeds violence. The road to peace and prosperity is built out of goodwill, dialogue, and the memory of our past wars, the people who started them and why.

This monument to the heroes of World War I is not just a mark of tribute to their feats but is also a warning and reminder to us all of our world's fragility. It is our duty to look after peace and remember that the most precious thing on earth is peaceful, calm and stable life.

"World history gives us so many examples of what a terrible price we pay for refusing to listen to each other."

We cherish the memory of World War I heroes. Glory to Russian arms and to our hero-soldier!

KGB / PERSONAL LIFE

(EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH MIKE WALLACE)

WALLACE: It's surprising that you rose from a KGB officer so quickly? Of course, you had a degree in law. But I would like first to ask you why you decided to join the KGB?

PUTIN: Ours was a different life, a different country, and the ideals corresponded to them. They were not based on what is now relevant for both our country and the West.

Now we address more frequently the negative aspects of the Soviet Union's security bodies, above all Stalin's reprisals. But apart from reprisals, the security bodies also protected the state. They also did a great deal during the Great Patriotic War [WW2] and in the post-war period. During the Cold War, too, they fulfilled above all the function of protecting the country's interests.

It is not surprising, therefore, that many young people of my generation wished to follow such examples, which showed how one man's efforts could materially influence the development of some or other event in the interests of your country, and your people. We wanted to be like the heroes that emerged. That made me want to work in the security bodies.

As you know, I did not work in the security bodies as such, I worked in the foreign intelligence service. These were people who were employed mostly abroad. And that milieu had its own views, which were liberal enough if one can speak of liberalism among security personnel.

"My notion of the KGB came from romantic spy stories. I was a pure and utterly successful product of Soviet patriotic education."

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin_5.html#HuvrToye6FMpMCsj.99

I think this can be said because people spent a considerable part of their lives abroad, saw the realities of the West and the existing realities in the Soviet Union. And they cultivated specific views on the situation in the Soviet Union and future prospects for the country. After the 1990s, I plainly saw that the function fulfilled by the security bodies was ceasing to play as important a role as before.

All the more so since I was offered a job by my former university tutor, who became city mayor, Mr. [Anatoly] Sobchak, and I decided to resign and accept a permanent post under him. In that way I found myself, strictly speaking, in municipal adminis-

tration, and then took up politics, although I had no inclination to engage in political activity proper. I was never elected to any post, and I was never either a regional, or a municipal, let alone a federal, deputy. I was a manager first and foremost, I moved to Moscow, and indeed rose within three years from a rank-and-file official to head the security bodies, where I had not planned to return.

Then I became secretary of the Security Council, chairman of the government, and was later elected president.

Such metamorphoses, I think, are possible in a revolutionary period of a country's development. This exactly points out that the country is in process of development, and establishing its institutions. And moreover this was undoubtedly connected with the fact that by that time the elite – I will be absolutely frank – had largely destroyed itself in the course of either the struggle for power, or for property... Strictly speaking, there was lack of people who could in practice assume responsibility for the country, and its development. I think that President Yeltsin saw it perfectly, too. But my working with him for three years evidently persuaded him that the proposal he made to me was worthwhile. Combined, all this led to the situation that shaped up late in 1999 and early in 2000.



SOURCE: http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/7882

LEADERSHIP

"Of course, you must be tough and consistent, but the most important thing is to assume responsibility, not to shy away from it, or hide behind your staff, government, security agencies, armed forces and police. That is the central point. And you should be able to find people who are effective in their positions. But, I have to say, that is perhaps the most difficult part of the job of any executive of any level.

Being tough is not the most difficult thing for someone in my position. Perhaps it is more difficult to be lenient and to be able to forgive. Responsibility should always be personal. ... Liability should always be personalised."

ENVIRONMENT / GMOs

“Russia Must Protect Its Citizens from GMOs”

Russia must protect its citizens from the use of foods derived from genetically modified organisms (GMOs), and this can be done in compliance with the country’s obligations under the World Trade Organization (WTO), Russian President Vladimir Putin stated Thursday.

“We need to properly construct our work so that it is not contrary to our obligations under the WTO. But even with this in mind, we nevertheless have legitimate methods and instruments to protect our own market, and above all citizens,” said Putin at a meeting with members of the Board of the Russian Federation Council.

He stressed that the market and citizens should be protected from substandard products. The consumption of these products continues until people see the consequences.

“We can do it, should do it and will do it. It is not so long ago that this was discussed at the meeting of the Security Council. We must act carefully to avoid prejudice to our obligations under the WTO, but it can be done,” echoed the President, noting that scientific and laboratory research should not be forgotten. Meanwhile, Putin went on, that control is needed of the use of GMOs and “We can’t even 100% say how much goes into our market currently .”

“This is what we will do with the public, with experts , with senators , we will move in the direction of protecting our citizens,” the President of the Russian Federation said.

During the meeting, one of the senators noted that to date sales of GM seeds worldwide has totalled about $50 billion. “And the main owner of the rights to GMOs – the United States,” – he said. The Senator asked the president to take control of this problem, recalling that there was a bill to ban the import of GMOs.

Source: ria.ru/economy/20140327/1001323024.html

“This is what we will do with the public, with experts, with senators, we will move in the direction of protecting our citizens.”

INTERNET

On September 4, 2013, President Putin addressed a meeting of The Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights at the Kremlin in Moscow. Below are some of the comments he made regarding the Internet:

"You also said that the Internet is a weapon, an uncontrollable weapon. I agree with you on your first point, that it's a weapon. But I do not agree that it is uncontrollable. Indeed, it is being controlled quite effectively and, in general, we are not the ones with the tools to manage it, when the servers are over there – we have seen this. You may be working in human rights or similar domains, but I assure you, believe me, we have seen the way it is controlled. During election campaigns, we know that our colleagues support this candidate and do not support that one. As soon as something appears online regarding a candidate they do not like – boom! They delete it immediately. It gets posted again, and boom! They remove it again. So it's very controlled."

http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/news/5933



MEDIA and the STATE

(EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH MIKE WALLACE)

WALLACE: What makes it so important for you to read the newspapers?

PUTIN: I worked in intelligence and know how information and information bulletins are made. After all, this is determined to a considerable extent by the political attitudes and bias of those who do it.

Screening of the information may be done in such a way that, this sorting may provide the frames for your opinion in advance. I, for one, want to have my opinion based on independent sources.

WALLACE: Have you ever wanted to be a journalist?

PUTIN: You know journalism, as concerns collecting information, differs little if at all from intelligence work. In my judgment, a journalist's job is very interesting.

WALLACE: Do you have to bend and kneel to become a journalist in Russia?

PUTIN: You decided to address media issues, right?

I will give you some figures now, and you will decide for yourself if you have to kneel before the authorities to work in the media.

Russia has 3,200 registered and functioning television and radio companies.

WALLACE: What? How many?

PUTIN: 3,200 television and radio companies. And only 10 per cent of them are state-owned.

Russia has 46,000 registered and operating print media. Even if the authorities wanted – at the federal or regional level – to control this vast number of media, and those who work in this area, it is practically impossible to do, as you can see. So rumors of the Kremlin's total control over the media in Russia, as Mark Twain put it regarding his death, are greatly exaggerated.

WALLACE: Now, there are political views that can be aired on cable television and by radio... But the only mass media that really carry political weight is three national television channels, right? And they put out their own news.

PUTIN: I would say we have a minimum of five to six television companies functioning at the national level.

WALLACE: I hear there are three news channels and all are controlled by you. When you were installed in office, one channel was run by the state, another was half-state and half-private, and the third fully private. Now all the three are controlled by the state, which controls news flows. One channel even begins its television newscasts by telling its audience what Putin did today, whom he met, and so on and so forth.

It looks like the Soviet Union, China and many authoritarian countries. Your men control news flows on these channels, and the opposition has no access to the news media. Although it is hard to imagine an opposition to you.

PUTIN: With respect to me, there is an opposition and a big one, to begin with. Second, the opposition is able to voice its opinion openly, which it does.

WALLACE: Where is it doing this?

PUTIN: Everywhere. And in the streets – you should see our May Day celebrations. The opposition is able to do this on all the 3,200 radio and television channels I mentioned, and practically in all the 40,000 publications.

As regards the influence of the national channels, I would not play down the effect of the regional mass media. According to all public polls, people living in the regions primarily trust the regional mass media.

But speaking of the national channels, you were correct in noting that initially one channel was state-owned and remained state-owned. And the state, in my opinion, has the right to possess a mechanism for presenting its official position through official and state mass media. The second channel, which is called Channel One in this country, is a joint-stock company.

WALLACE: The second was half-state and half-private, and the third all private. And now all three?

PUTIN: No, this is not the case. I repeat once again. It is true that one is state-owned. The second, which is called Channel One here, is a joint stock company with a sufficiently noticeable proportion of state capital. Honestly, I do not remember how much, but the state does not hold the controlling stake.

The third channel (NTV) was set up by private individuals with the money provided by joint stock company Gazprom. And joint stock company Gazprom, after failing to recover the loans issued for the project, took its property back. This channel does not belong to the state, it actually belongs to joint stock company Gazprom, in which the state has a 38 per cent stake, with 10 per cent, I think, owned by foreign investors who have their representative on the board of directors. In effect, it is an international company.

So claims that all three channels are fully state-owned are not true. Besides, there are other national channels with no state ownership at all. Incidentally, another joint-stock company – Unified Energy Systems [of Russia] – has a considerable representation in

one of them.

The state also has a considerable stake in UES, but nobody ever says this television and radio company is under state control. And the prime reason I think is that the head of UES, which is the de-facto owner of Ren-TV, is part, in the view of Western partners, of the pro-Western section of Russia's political spectrum. And everything is considered okay there.

But in such a channel as NTV, which is owned by another company, the state is believed to control something.

The state in effect is in a position to control whatever it likes. The question is the extent to which internal legislation allows the state to do so. As for the relations between society and the media, they are always somewhat strained. It is because mass media are designed to identify problems and issues and show them to society, while the bureaucratic structures are trying to soft-pedal and play them down.

Incidentally, in my view, this is typical not only of Russia, but also of many other countries. Just recall what happened with the American media when the Iraqi campaign was being prepared and conducted? Were there no problems with journalists?

You just told me there is a view that in order to be a journalist one must have contact with the Kremlin or nearly personally with the president.

WALLACE: Oh no. I did not say that.

PUTIN: Just about. I said that we see such sufficiently rigid relations between state and journalists not only in Russia, but also in other countries. Did we not see in the course of the Iraqi campaign American journalists being sacked from national media for their stand on the Iraqi problem?

WALLACE: Do you mean to say the journalists were fired because of that?

PUTIN: Do you not know that journalists were fired for their position on Iraq, and in a presidential election campaign?

WALLACE: Can you give me the specific names?

PUTIN: There were such cases. This is a fact. It is no problem to quote the names. I simply want to make a point that relations between the press and the government is not Russia’s unique problem. It exists in other countries as well. But I believe that if we want to see the media independent we should primarily make them economically self-sufficient so that they are independent both from the state and big groups that are called oligarch groups here. The latter are protecting their own group interests rather than national ones. We will be definitely working to create the conditions, above all economic and legal ones, in order to ensure the independence of the media.

SOURCE: http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/7882

Putin's OpEd article for *The NY Times:*

A Plea for Caution From Russia

What Putin Has to Say to Americans About Syria

By VLADIMIR V. PUTIN
Op-Ed Contributor


The New York Times
The Opinion Pages
OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR
A Plea for Caution From Russia
By VLADIMIR V. PUTIN
It is dangerous for any country, including America, to see itself as exceptional, whatever its motivation.
Comment

As the crisis unfolded in Syria in 2013 and the Americans appeared ready to begin bombing that country on the pretext that it was "gassing its own people" (a similar charge made against Saddam Hussein several years ago as another *casus belli*) Putin made his move. He would stall the Americans and work out an agreement with the Assad government to turn over its chemical weapons stockpile to an international agency for disposal. The US backed off, at least for the time being.

The *NY Times*, uncharacteristically, gave Putin a page to make his case, which he did. This is what he wrote:

Recent events surrounding Syria have prompted me to speak directly to the American people and their political leaders. It is important to do so at a time of insufficient communication between our societies.

Relations between us have passed through different stages. We stood against each other during the cold war. But we were also allies once, and defeated the Nazis together. The universal international organization – the United Nations – was then established to prevent such devastation from ever happening again.

The United Nations' founders understood that decisions affecting war and peace should happen only by consensus, and with America's consent the veto by Security Council permanent members was enshrined in the United Nations Charter. The profound wisdom of this has underpinned the stability of international relations for decades.

Syrian children, dead from poison gas



No one wants the United Nations to suffer the fate of the League of Nations, which collapsed because it lacked real leverage. This is possible if influential countries bypass the United Nations and take military ac-


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A Plea for Caution From Russia

What Putin Has to Say to Americans About Syria

By VLADIMIR V. PUTIN

Published: September 11, 2013 | 2091 Comments

MOSCOW — RECENT events surrounding Syria have prompted me

FACEBOOK

tion without Security Council authorization.

The potential strike by the United States against Syria, despite strong opposition from many countries and major political and religious leaders, including the pope, will result in more innocent victims and escalation, potentially spreading the conflict far beyond Syria's borders. A strike would increase violence and unleash a new wave of terrorism. It could undermine multilateral efforts to resolve the Iranian nuclear problem and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and further destabilize the Middle East and North Africa. It could throw the entire system of international law and order out of balance.

Syria is not witnessing a battle for democracy, but an armed conflict between government and opposition in a multireligious country. There are few champions of democracy in Syria. But there are more than enough Qaeda fighters and extremists of all stripes battling the government. The United States State Department has designated Al Nusra Front and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, fighting with the opposition, as terrorist organizations. This internal conflict, fueled by foreign weapons supplied to the opposition, is one of the bloodiest in the world.

Mercenaries from Arab countries fighting there, and hundreds of militants from Western countries and even Russia, are an issue of our deep concern. Might they not return to our countries with experience acquired in Syria? After all, after fighting in Libya, extremists moved on to Mali. This threatens us all.

From the outset, Russia has advocated peaceful dialogue enabling Syrians to develop a compromise plan for their own future. We are not protecting the Syrian government, but international law. We need to use the United Nations Security Council and believe that preserving law and order in today's complex and turbulent world is one of the few ways to keep international relations from sliding into chaos. The law is still the law, and we must follow it whether we like it or not. Under current international law, force is permitted only in self-defense or by the decision of the Security Council. Anything else is unacceptable under the United Nations Charter and would constitute an act of

"The law is still the law, and we must follow it whether we like it or not. Under current international law, force is permitted only in self-defense or by the decision of the Security Council. Anything else is unacceptable under the United Nations Charter and would constitute an act of aggression."

> "We must stop using the language of force and return to the path of civilized diplomatic and political settlement."

aggression.

No one doubts that poison gas was used in Syria. But there is every reason to believe it was used not by the Syrian Army, but by opposition forces, to provoke intervention by their powerful foreign patrons, who would be siding with the fundamentalists. Reports that militants are preparing another attack – this time against Israel – cannot be ignored.

It is alarming that military intervention in internal conflicts in foreign countries has become commonplace for the United States. Is it in America's long-term interest? I doubt it. Millions around the world increasingly see America not as a model of democracy but as relying solely on brute force, cobbling coalitions together under the slogan "you're either with us or against us."

But force has proved ineffective and pointless. Afghanistan is reeling, and no one can say what will happen after international forces withdraw. Libya is divided into tribes and clans. In Iraq the civil war continues, with dozens killed each day. In the United States, many draw an analogy between Iraq and Syria, and ask why their government would want to repeat recent mistakes.

No matter how targeted the strikes or how sophisticated the weapons, civilian casualties are inevitable, including the elderly and children, whom the strikes are meant to protect.


The Moscow Times

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Putin Relishes Role as Syria Peacemaker

12 September 2013 | Issue 5212

The world reacts by asking: if you cannot count on international law, then you must find other ways to ensure your security. Thus a growing number of countries seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction. This is logical: if you have the bomb, no one will touch you. We are left with talk of the need to strengthen nonproliferation, when in reality this is being eroded.

We must stop using the language of force and return to the path of civilized diplomatic and political settlement.

A new opportunity to avoid military action has emerged in the past few days. The United States, Russia and



all members of the international community must take advantage of the Syrian government's willingness to place its chemical arsenal under international control for subsequent destruction. Judging by the statements of President Obama, the United States sees this as an alternative to military action.

I welcome the president's interest in continuing the dialogue with Russia on Syria. We must work together to keep this hope alive, as we agreed to at the Group of 8 meeting in Lough Erne in Northern Ireland in June, and steer the discussion back toward negotiations.

If we can avoid force against Syria, this will improve the atmosphere in international affairs and strengthen mutual trust. It will be our shared success and open the door to cooperation on other critical issues.

My working and personal relationship with President Obama is marked by growing trust. I appreciate this. I carefully studied his address to the nation on Tuesday. And I would rather disagree with a case he made on American exceptionalism, stating that the United States' policy is "what makes America different. It's what makes us exceptional."

It is extremely dangerous to encourage people to see themselves as exceptional, whatever the motivation. There are big countries and small countries, rich and poor, those with long democratic traditions and those still finding their way to democracy. Their policies differ, too. We are all different, but when we ask for the Lord's blessings,

"It is alarming that military intervention in internal conflicts in foreign countries has become commonplace for the United States. Is it in America's long-term interest? I doubt it. Millions around the world increasingly see America not as a model of democracy but as relying solely on brute force, cobbling coalitions together under the slogan "you're either with us or against us."

CRIMEA celebrates



"You should note that, thank God, not a single gunshot has been fired there; there are no casualties, except for that crush on the square about a week ago. What was going on there? People came, surrounded units of the armed forces and talked to them, convincing them to follow the demands and the will of the people living in that area. There was not a single armed conflict, not a single gunshot." – Vladimir Putin

SOURCE: http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/news/6763

"Our western partners created the 'Kosovo precedent' with their own hands. In a situation absolutely the same as the one in Crimea they recognized Kosovo's secession from Serbia as legitimate while arguing that no permission from a country's central authority for a unilateral declaration of independence is necessary….And the UN International Court of Justice agreed with those arguments. That's what they said; that's what they trumpeted all over the world and coerced everyone to accept – and now they are complaining about Crimea.

"Why is that?"

UKRAINE & NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY

Opening remarks at the Security Council meeting – July 22, 2014

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Good afternoon, colleagues.

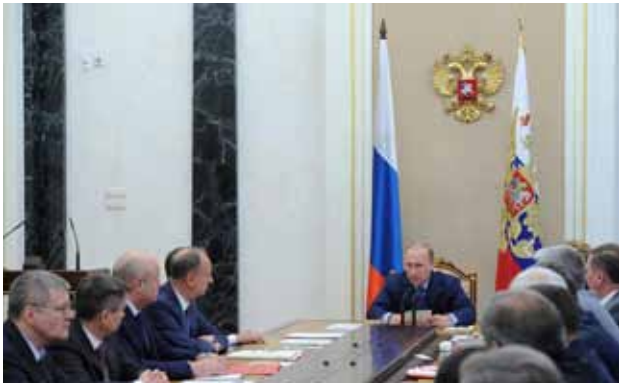
Today we will consider the fundamental issues of maintaining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country. We all understand how many political, ethnic, legal, social, economic and other aspects this topic encompasses.

"Ever more frequently today we hear of ultimatums and sanctions. The very notion of state sovereignty is being washed out. Undesirable regimes, countries that conduct an independent policy or that simply stand in the way of somebody's interests get destabilised."

Sovereignty and territorial integrity are fundamental values, as I have already said. We are referring to the maintenance of the independence and unity of our state, to the reliable protection of our territory, our constitutional system and to the timely neutralisation of internal and external threats, of which there are quite a few in the world today. I should make it clear from the start that, obviously, there is no direct military threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country. Primarily, the strategic balance of forces in the world guarantees this.

We, on our part, strictly comply with the norms of international law and with our commitments to our partners, and we expect other countries, unions of states and military-political alliances to do the same, while Russia is fortunately not a member of any alliance. This is also a guarantee of our sovereignty.

Any nation that is part of an alliance gives up part of its sovereignty. This does not always meet the national interests of a given country, but this is their sovereign decision. We expect our national legal interests to be respected, while any controversies that always exist, to be resolved only through diplomatic efforts, by means of negotiations. Nobody should interfere in our internal affairs.



However, ever more frequently today we hear of ultimatums and sanctions. The very notion of state

sovereignty is being washed out. Undesirable regimes, countries that conduct an independent policy or that simply stand in the way of somebody's interests get destabilised. Tools used for this purpose are the so-called colour revolutions, or, in simple terms – takeovers instigated and financed from the outside.

The focus is of course on internal problems. Any country always has plenty of problems, especially the more unstable states, or states with a complicated regime. Problems do exist, still it is not clear why they should be used to destabilise and break down a country – something we see rather frequently in various parts of the world.

Frequently the forces used here are radical, nationalist, often even neo-fascist, fundamental forces, as was the case, unfortunately, in many post-Soviet states, and as is the case with Ukraine now. What we see is practically the same thing.

People came to power through the use of armed force and by unconstitutional means. True, they held elections after the takeover, however, for some strange reason, power ended up again in the hands of those who either funded or carried out this takeover. Meanwhile, without any attempt at negotiations, they are trying to supress by force that part of the population that does not agree with such a turn of events.

At the same time, they present Russia with an ultimatum: either you let us destroy the part of the population that is ethnically, culturally and historically close to Russia, or we introduce sanctions against you. This is a strange logic, and absolutely unacceptable, of course.

As for the terrible tragedy that occurred in the sky above Donetsk – we would like once again to express our condolences to the families of the victims; it is a terrible tragedy. Russia will do everything within its power to ensure a proper comprehensive and transparent investigation. We are asked to influence the militia in the southeast. As I have said, we will do everything in our power, but this is absolutely insufficient.



Members of "Right Sector" neonazi group that murdered its way into power in Ukraine.

Photo courtesy of RT

Yesterday when the militia forces were handing over the so-called black boxes, the armed forces of Ukraine launched a tank attack at the city of Donetsk. The tanks battled through to the railway station and opened fire at it. International experts who came to investigate the disaster site could not stick their heads

out. It was clearly not the militia forces shooting at themselves.

We should finally call on the Kiev authorities to comply with elementary norms of human decency and introduce a cease-fire for at least some short period of time to make the investigation possible. We will of course do everything in our power to make sure the investigation is thorough.

This is exactly why Russia supported the [UN] Security Council Resolution proposed by Australia. We will continue working together with all our partners to ensure a complete and comprehensive investigation. However, if we get back to such scenarios in general, as I have said, they are absolutely unacceptable and counterproductive. They destabilize the existing world order.

“Frequently the forces used here are radical, nationalist, often even neo-fascist, fundamental forces, as was the case, unfortunately, in many post-Soviet states, and as is the case with Ukraine now. What we see is practically the same thing.”

Undoubtedly, such methods will not work with Russia. The recipes used regarding weaker states fraught with internal conflict will not work with us. Our people, the citizens of Russia will not let this happen and will never accept this.

However, attempts are clearly being made to destabilize the social and economic situation, to weaken Russia in one way or another or to strike at our weaker spots, and they will continue primarily to make us more agreeable in resolving international issues.

So-called international competition mechanisms are being used as well (this applies to both politics and the economy); for this purpose the special services’ capabilities are used, along with modern information and communication technologies and dependent, puppet non-governmental organizations – so-called soft force mechanisms. This, obviously, is how some countries understand democracy.

We have to give an adequate response to such challenges, and, most importantly, to continue working in a systematic way to resolve the issues that carry a potential risk for the unity of our country and our society.

In the past few years, we have strengthened our state and public institutions, the basics of Russian federalism, and we have made progress in regional development, in resolving economic and social tasks. Our law enforcement agencies and special services have become more efficient in combatting terrorism and extremism; we are forming a modern basis of our ethnic policy, adjusting approaches to education; we are constantly combatting corruption – all this guarantees our security and sovereignty.

At the same time, we should keep these issues in mind. If necessary, we have to

quickly develop and implement additional measures. We need to have a long-term plan of action in these areas, strategic documents and resolutions.

In this regard, I would like to draw attention to several priority challenges.

The first is working consistently to strengthen interethnic harmony, ensure a competent migration policy, and react rigidly to inactions by officials and crimes that may be triggered by interethnic conflicts.

These are challenges for all levels of government, from the federal to the municipal. And, of course, it is extremely important for our civil society to take an active position and react to infringements on human rights and freedoms, helping to prevent radicalism and extremism.

We are particularly relying on civil society for effective help in improving the system of state governance with regard to ethnic policy and educating young people about the spirit of patriotism and responsibility for the fate of their Fatherland, which is particularly important. We discussed this in great detail recently at a meeting of the Council for Interethnic Relations.

By the way, I want to clearly state that – with the help of the civil society – we will never entertain the thought of improving our work in these areas solely by cracking down, so to speak. We will not do that under any circumstances; we will rely on civil society, first and foremost.

Our second important challenge is protecting constitutional order. Constitutional supremacy and economic and legal unity must be ensured throughout all of Russia. Federal standards as defined by the Constitution are inviolable and nobody has the right to break the law and infringe on citizens' rights.

It is important for all Russians, regardless of where they live, to have equal rights and equal opportunities. This is the foundation for a democratic system. We must rigorously observe these Constitutional principles, and to do this, we must build a clear system of state authority, striving to ensure that all its components function as a united whole, precisely and systemically; this should include increasing local authorities' role as part of Russia's overall government mechanism. And naturally, reinforcing the efficacy of the work of the judicial system, the prosecutors, and the regulatory and supervisory authorities should strengthen Russia's statehood.

The third key challenge is sustainable and balanced economic and social development. At the same time, it is fundamentally important to take into account territorial and regional factors. I mean that we must ensure priority development for strategically important regions, including in the Far East and other areas; we must simultaneously reduce drastic gaps between regions in terms of the economic situation and people's living standards. All this needs to be taken into account when developing federal and sectorial programmes, improving inter-budgetary relations and building plans to develop infrastructure, selecting locations for new plants and creating modern jobs.
I also feel that we must think about additional steps to decrease the dependence of

the national economy and financial system on negative external factors. I am not just referring to instability in global markets, but possible political risks as well.

Fourth, our Armed Forces remain the most important guarantor of our sovereignty and Russia's territorial integrity. We will react appropriately and proportionately to the approach of NATO's military infrastructure toward our borders, and we will not fail to notice the expansion of global missile defence systems and increases in the reserves of strategic non-nuclear precision weaponry.

We are often told that the ABM system is a defence system. But that's not the case. This is an offensive system; it is part of the offensive defence system of the United States on the periphery. Regardless of what our foreign colleagues say, we can clearly see what is actually happening: groups of NATO troops are clearly being reinforced in Eastern European states, including in the Black and Baltic seas. And the scale and intensity of operational and combat training is growing. In this regard, it is imperative to implement all planned measures to strength our nation's defence capacity fully and on schedule, including, of course, in Crimea and Sevastopol, where essentially we need to fully recreate the military infrastructure.

July 22, 2014, The Kremlin, Moscow

SOURCE: http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22714

"We are often told that the ABM system is a defence system. But that's not the case. This is an offensive system; it is part of the offensive defence system of the United States on the periphery. Regardless of what our foreign colleagues say, we can clearly see what is actually happening: groups of NATO troops are clearly being reinforced in Eastern European states, including in the Black and Baltic seas. And the scale and intensity of operational and combat training is growing.





"In this regard, it is imperative to implement all planned measures to strengthen our nation's defence capacity fully and on schedule, including, of course, in Crimea and Sevastopol, where essentially we need to fully recreate the military infrastructure."

Vladimir Putin answers journalists' questions on the situation in Ukraine

March 4, 2014, Novo-Ogaryovo, Moscow Region

The President of Russia met with media representatives to answer a number of their questions, in particular with regard to the situation in Ukraine.

PRESIDENT OF RUSSIA VLADIMIR PUTIN: Good afternoon, colleagues,

How shall we do this? This is what I'd like to suggest: let's have a conversation, rather than an interview. Therefore, I would ask you to begin by stating all your questions, I will jot them down and try to answer them, and then we will have a more detailed discussion of the specifics that interest you most. Let's begin.

QUESTION: Mr President, I would like to ask (you took a lengthy pause, so we have quite a few questions by now) how you assess the events in Kiev? Do you think that the Government and the Acting President, who are currently in power in Kiev, are legitimate? Are you ready to communicate with them, and on what terms? Do you yourself think it possible now to return to the agreements of February 21, which we all talk about so often?



QUESTION: Mr President, Russia has promised financial aid to Crimea and instructions were issued to the Finance Ministry yesterday. Is there a clear understanding of how much we are giving, where the money is coming from, on what terms and when? The situation there is very difficult.

QUESTION: When, on what terms and in what scope can military force be used in Ukraine? To what extent does this comply with Russia's international agreements? Did the military exercises that have just finished have anything to do with the possible use of force?

QUESTION: We would like to know more about Crimea. Do you think that the provocations are over or that there remains a threat to the Russian citizens who are now in Crimea and to the Russian-speaking population? What are the general dynamics there – is the situation changing for the better or for the worse? We are hearing different reports from there.

QUESTION: If you do decide to use force, have you thought through all the possible risks for yourself, for the country and for the world: economic sanctions, weakened global security, a possible visa ban or greater isolation for Russia, as western politi-

cians are demanding?

QUESTION: Yesterday the Russian stock market fell sharply in response to the Federation Council's vote, and the ruble exchange rates hit record lows. Did you expect such a reaction? What do you think are the possible consequences for the economy? Is there a need for any special measures now, and of what kind? For instance, do you think the Central Bank's decision to shift to a floating ruble exchange rate may have been premature? Do you think it should be revoked?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Fine, let us stop here for now. I will begin, and then we will continue. Don't worry; I will try to answer as many questions as possible.

First of all, my assessment of what happened in Kiev and in Ukraine in general. There can only be one assessment: this was an anti-constitutional takeover, an armed seizure of power. Does anyone question this? Nobody does. There is a question here that neither I, nor my colleagues, with whom I have been discussing the situation in Ukraine a great deal over these past days, as you know – none of us can answer. The question is why was this done?

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that President Yanukovych, through the mediation of the Foreign Ministers of three European countries – Poland, Germany and France – and in the presence of my representative (this was the Russian Human Rights Commissioner Vladimir Lukin) signed an agreement with the opposition on February 21. I would like to stress that under that agreement (I am not saying this was good or bad, just stating the fact) Mr Yanukovych actually handed over power. He agreed to all the opposition's demands: he agreed to early parliamentary elections, to early presidential elections, and to return to the 2004 Constitution, as demanded by the opposition.

He gave a positive response to our request, the request of western countries and, first of all, of the opposition not to use force. He did not issue a single illegal order to shoot at the poor demonstrators. Moreover, he issued orders to with-



draw all police forces from the capital, and they complied. He went to Kharkov to attend an event, and as soon as he left, instead of releasing the occupied administrative buildings, they immediately occupied the President's residence and the Government building – all that instead of acting on the agreement.

I ask myself, what was the purpose of all this? I want to understand why this was done. He had in fact given up his power already, and as I believe, as I told him, he had no chance of being re-elected. Everybody agrees on this, everyone I have been speaking to on the telephone these past few days. What was the purpose of all those illegal, unconstitutional actions, why did they have to create this chaos in the country? Armed and masked militants are still roaming the streets of Kiev. This is a question to which there is no answer. Did they wish to humiliate someone and show their power? I think these actions are absolutely foolish. The result is the absolute opposite of what they expected, because their actions have significantly destabilised the east and southeast of Ukraine.

Now over to how this situation came about.

In my opinion, this revolutionary situation has been brewing for a long time, since the first days of Ukraine's independence. The ordinary Ukrainian citizen, the ordinary guy suffered during the rule of Nicholas II, during the reign of Kuchma, and Yushchenko, and Yanukovych. Nothing or almost nothing has changed for the better. Corruption has reached dimensions that are unheard of here in Russia. Accumulation of wealth and social stratification – problems that are also acute in this country – are much worse in Ukraine, radically worse. Out there, they are beyond anything we can imagine. Generally, people wanted change, but one should not support illegal change. Only constitutional means should be used on the post-Soviet space, where political structures are still very fragile, and economies are still weak. Going beyond the constitutional field would always be a cardinal mistake in such a situation. Incidentally, I understand those people on Maidan, though I do not support this kind of turnover. I understand the people on Maidan who are calling for radical change rather than some cosmetic remodelling of power. Why are they demanding this? Because they have grown used to seeing one set of thieves being replaced by another. Moreover, the people in the regions do not even participate in forming their own regional governments. There was a period in this country when the President appointed regional leaders, but then the local legislative authorities had to approve them, while in Ukraine they are appointed directly. We have now moved on to elections, while they are nowhere near this. And they began appointing all sorts of oligarchs and billionaires to govern the eastern regions of the country. No wonder the people do not accept this, no wonder they think that as a result of dishonest privatisation (just as many people think here as well) people have become rich and now they also have been brought to power.

For example, Mr Kolomoisky was appointed Governor of Dnepropetrovsk. This is a unique crook. He even managed to cheat our oligarch Roman Abramovich two or three years ago. Scammed him, as our intellectuals like to say. They signed some deal, Abramovich transferred several billion dollars, while this guy never delivered and pocketed the money. When I asked him [Abramovich]: "Why did you do it?" he said: "I

never thought this was possible." I do not know, by the way, if he ever got his money back and if the deal was closed. But this really did happen a couple of years ago. And now this crook is appointed Governor of Dnepropetrovsk. No wonder the people are dissatisfied. They were dissatisfied and will remain so if those who refer to themselves as the legitimate authorities continue in the same fashion.

Most importantly, people should have the right to determine their own future, that of their families and of their region, and to have equal participation in it. I would like to stress this: wherever a person lives, whatever part of the country, he or she should have the right to equal participation in determining the future of the country.

Are the current authorities legitimate? The Parliament is partially, but all the others are not. The current Acting President is definitely not legitimate. There is only one legitimate President, from a legal standpoint. Clearly, he has no power. However, as I have already said, and will repeat: Yanukovych is the only undoubtedly legitimate President.

There are three ways of removing a President under Ukrainian law: one is his death, the other is when he personally steps down, and the third is impeachment. The latter is a well-deliberated constitutional norm. It has to involve the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court and the Rada. This is a complicated and lengthy procedure. It was not carried out. Therefore, from a legal perspective this is an undisputed fact.

Moreover, I think this may be why they disbanded the Constitutional Court, which runs counter to all legal norms of both Ukraine and Europe. They not only disbanded the Constitutional Court in an illegitimate fashion, but they also – just think about it – instructed the Prosecutor General's Office to launch criminal proceedings against members of the Constitutional Court. What is that all about? Is this what they call free justice? How can you instruct anyone to start criminal proceedings? If a crime, a criminal offence, has been committed, the law enforcement agencies see this and react. But instructing them to file criminal charges is nonsense, it's monkey business.

Now about financial aid to Crimea. As you may know, we have decided to organise work in the Russian regions to aid Crimea, which has turned to us for humanitarian support. We will provide it, of course. I cannot say how much, when or how – the Government is working on this, by bringing together the regions bordering on Crimea, by providing additional support to our regions so they could help the people in Crimea. We will do it, of course.

Regarding the deployment of troops, the use of armed forces. So far, there is no need for it, but the possibility remains. I would like to say here that the military exercises we recently held had nothing to do with the events in Ukraine. This was pre-planned, but we did not disclose these plans, naturally, because this was a snap inspection of the forces' combat readiness. We planned this a long time ago, the Defence Minister reported to me and I had the order ready to begin the exercise. As you may know, the exercises are over; I gave the order for the troops to return to their regular dislocations yesterday. What can serve as a reason to use the Armed Forces? Such a measure would certainly be the very last resort.

First, the issue of legitimacy. As you may know, we have a direct appeal from the incumbent and, as I said, legitimate President of Ukraine, Mr Yanukovych, asking us to use the Armed Forces to protect the lives, freedom and health of the citizens of Ukraine.

What is our biggest concern? We see the rampage of reactionary forces, nationalist and anti-Semitic forces going on in certain parts of Ukraine, including Kiev. I am sure you, members of the media, saw how one of the governors was chained and handcuffed to something and they poured water over him, in the cold of winter. After that, by the way, he was locked up in a cellar and tortured. What is all this about? Is this democracy? Is this some manifestation of democracy? He was actually only recently appointed to this position, in December, I believe. Even if we accept that they are all corrupt there, he had barely had time to steal anything.

And do you know what happened when they seized the Party of Regions building? There were no party members there at all at the time. Some two-three employees came out, one was an engineer, and he said to the attackers: "Could you let us go, and let the women out, please. I'm an engineer, I have nothing to do with politics." He was shot right there in front of the crowd. Another employee was led to a cellar and then they threw Molotov cocktails at him and burned him alive. Is this also a manifestation of democracy?

When we see this we understand what worries the citizens of Ukraine, both Russian and Ukrainian, and the Russian-speaking population in the eastern and southern regions of Ukraine. It is this uncontrolled crime that worries them. Therefore, if we see such uncontrolled crime spreading to the eastern regions of the country, and if the people ask us for help, while we already have the official request from the legitimate President, we retain the right to use all available means to protect those people. We believe this would be absolutely legitimate. This is our last resort.

Moreover, here is what I would like to say: we have always considered Ukraine not only a neighbour, but also a brotherly neighbouring republic, and will continue to do so. Our Armed Forces are comrades in arms, friends, many of whom know each other personally. I am certain, and I stress, I am certain that the Ukrainian military and the Russian military will not be facing each other, they will be on the same side in a fight.

Incidentally, the things I am talking about – this unity – is what is happening in Crimea. You should note that, thank God, not a single gunshot has been fired there; there are no casualties, except for that crush on the square about a week ago. What was going on there? People came, surrounded units of the armed forces and talked to them, convincing them to follow the demands and the will of the people living in that area. There was not a single armed conflict, not a single gunshot.

Thus the tension in Crimea that was linked to the possibility of using our Armed Forces simply died down and there was no need to use them. The only thing we had to do, and we did it, was to enhance the defence of our military facilities because they were constantly receiving threats and we were aware of the armed nationalists moving in. We did this, it was the right thing to do and very timely. Therefore, I proceed from

the idea that we will not have to do anything of the kind in eastern Ukraine.

There is something I would like to stress, however. Obviously, what I am going to say now is not within my authority and we do not intend to interfere. However, we firmly believe that all citizens of Ukraine, I repeat, wherever they live, should be given the same equal right to participate in the life of their country and in determining its future.

If I were in the shoes of those who consider themselves the legitimate authorities, I would not waste time and go through all the necessary procedures, because they do not have a national mandate to conduct the domestic, foreign and economic policy of Ukraine, and especially to determine its future.

Now, the stock market. As you may know, the stock market was jumpy even before the situation in Ukraine deteriorated. This is primarily linked to the policy of the US Federal Reserve, whose recent decisions enhanced the attractiveness of investing in the US economy and investors began moving their funds from the developing markets to the American market. This is a general trend and it has nothing to do with Ukraine. I believe it was India that suffered most, as well as the other BRICS states. Russia was hit as well, not as hard as India, but it was. This is the fundamental reason.

As for the events in Ukraine, politics always influence the stock market in one way or another. Money likes quiet, stability and calm. However, I think this is a tactical, temporary development and a temporary influence.

Your questions, please.

QUESTION: Mr President, can you tell us if you expected such a harsh reaction to Russia's actions from your western partners? Could you give us any details of your conversations with your western partners? All we've heard was a report from the press service. And what do you think about the G8 summit in Sochi – will it take place?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Regarding the expected reaction, whether the G8 will meet and about the conversations. Our conversations are confidential, some are even held over secure lines. Therefore, I am not authorised to disclose what I discussed with my partners. I will, however, refer to some public statements made by my colleagues from the west; without giving any names, I will comment on them in a general sense.
What do we pay attention to? We are often told our actions are illegitimate, but when I ask, "Do you think everything you do is legitimate?" they say "yes". Then, I have to recall the actions of the United States in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya, where they either acted without any UN sanctions or completely distorted the content of such resolutions, as was the case with Libya. There, as you may know, the resolution only spoke of closing the airspace for government aircraft, while it all ended with bomb attacks and special forces land operations.

Our partners, especially in the United Sates, always clearly formulate their own geopolitical and state interests and follow them with persistence. Then, using the principle "You're either with us or against us" they draw the whole world in. And those who do not join in get "beaten" until they do.

Our approach is different. We proceed from the conviction that we always act legitimately. I have personally always been an advocate of acting in compliance with international law. I would like to stress yet again that if we do make the decision, if I do decide to use the Armed Forces, this will be a legitimate decision in full compliance with both general norms of international law, since we have the appeal of the legitimate President, and with our commitments, which in this case coincide with our interests to protect the people with whom we have close historical, cultural and economic ties. Protecting these people is in our national interests. This is a humanitarian mission. We do not intend to subjugate anyone or to dictate to anyone. However, we cannot remain indifferent if we see that they are being persecuted, destroyed and humiliated. However, I sincerely hope it never gets to that.

QUESTION: How do you assess the reaction of the west to the events in Ukraine and their threats regarding Russia: are we facing the possibility of sanctions or withdrawal from the G8?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Regarding sanctions. It is primarily those who intend to apply them that need to consider their consequences. I believe that in the modern world, where everything is interconnected and interdependent, it is possible to cause damage to another country, but this will be mutual damage and one should bear this in mind. This is one thing.

The second and the most important thing. I have already told you what motivates us. And what motivates our partners? They supported an unconstitutional armed takeover, declared these people legitimate and are trying to support them. By the way, despite all of this we have been patient and even ready to cooperate; we do not want to disrupt our cooperation. As you may know, a few days ago I instructed the Government to consider how we can maintain contacts even with those powers in Kiev that we do not consider legitimate in order to retain our ties in the economy and industry. We think our actions have been absolutely reasonable, while any threat against Russia is counterproductive and harmful.

As for the G8, I do not know. We will be ready to host the summit with our colleagues. If they do not want to come – so be it.

QUESTION: Can I add about contacts? The way I see it, you consider the Prime Minister of Crimea Mr Aksyonov to be a legitimate representative of government authorities. Are you ready to have any contacts with those who consider themselves the legitimate authorities in Kiev?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I have just spoken about it. You must have missed it.

QUESTION: I mean, at the top level for a political solution.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I do not have a partner at the top level there. There is no president there, and there cannot be one until the general elections.

As for Crimea, the Parliament there was formed in 2010, in December 2010 if I remem-

ber correctly. There are 100 MPs representing six political parties. After the previous Prime Minister resigned, the Crimean Parliament, in compliance with the existing legislation and procedures elected a new Prime Minister at a session of the Crimean Supreme Council. He is definitely legitimate. They have complied with all the procedures envisaged by the law; there is not a single violation. However, when a few days ago a group of armed men tried to occupy the building of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, this caused the concern of the local residents. It seemed as though someone wanted to apply the Kiev scenario in Crimea and to launch a series of terrorist attacks and cause chaos. Naturally, this causes grave concern among the local residents. That is why they set up self-defence committees and took control over all the armed forces.

Incidentally, I was studying the brief yesterday to see what they took over – it is like a fortified zone. There are several dozen C-300 units, several dozen air-defence missile systems, 22,000 service members and a lot more. However, as I said, this is all in the hands of the people of Crimea and without a single gunshot.

QUESTION: Mr President, a clarification if I may. The people who were blocking the Ukrainian Army units in Crimea were wearing uniforms that strongly resembled the Russian Army uniform. Were those Russian soldiers, Russian military?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Why don't you take a look at the post-Soviet states. There are many uniforms there that are similar. You can go to a store and buy any kind of uniform.

QUESTION: But were they Russian soldiers or not?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Those were local self-defence units.

QUESTION: How well trained are they? If we compare them to the self-defence units in Kiev…

VLADIMIR PUTIN: My dear colleague, look how well trained the people who operated in Kiev were. As we all know they were trained at special bases in neighbouring states: in Lithuania, Poland and in Ukraine itself too. They were trained by instructors for extended periods. They were divided into dozens and hundreds, their actions were coordinated, they had good communication systems. It was all like clockwork. Did you see them in action? They looked very professional, like special forces. Why do you think those in Crimea should be any worse?

QUESTION: In that case, can I specify: did we take part in training Crimean self-defence forces?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: No, we did not.

QUESTION: How do you see the future of Crimea? Do you consider the possibility of it joining Russia?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: No, we do not. Generally, I believe that only residents of a given

country who have the freedom of will and are in complete safety can and should determine their future. If this right was granted to the Albanians in Kosovo, if this was made possible in many different parts of the world, then nobody has ruled out the right of nations to self-determination, which, as far as I know, is fixed by several UN documents. However, we will in no way provoke any such decision and will not breed such sentiments.

I would like to stress that I believe only the people living in a given territory have the right to determine their own future.

QUESTION: Two questions. You said that sending troops into Ukraine is an extreme measure, but you are nevertheless not ruling it out. Still, if Russian troops enter Ukraine, it could start a war. Doesn't that bother you?

And a second question. You say that Yanukovych did not give the order to shoot people. But somebody shot at the protestors. And clearly, these were snipers, trained snipers.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: You know, some people, including those who were recently among the protestors, have expressed the opinion that these were provocateurs from one of the opposition parties. Have you heard this?

REPLY: No, I have not heard this.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Look at these materials – they are freely available. That is why it is very difficult to get to the bottom of the situation. But you and I saw for ourselves when the Berkut fighters stood there with their shields and were shot at – and those were not air weapons that were used against them but assault weapons that pierced their shields. That is something we saw for certain. As for who gave the orders – that I do not know. I only know what Mr Yanukovych told me. And he told me that he did not give any orders, and moreover, he gave instructions – after signing a corresponding agreement – to even withdraw all militia units from the capital.

If you want, I can tell you even more. He called me on the phone and I told him not to do it. I said, "You will have anarchy, you will have chaos in the capital. Think about the people." But he did it anyway. And as soon as he did it, his office was seized, and that of the government, and the chaos I had warned him about and which continues to this day, erupted.

QUESTION: What about the first question? Are you concerned that a war could break out?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I am not concerned, because we do not plan and we will not fight with the Ukrainian people.

QUESTION: But there are Ukrainian troops, there is the Ukrainian army.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Listen carefully. I want you to understand me clearly: if we make

that decision, it will only be to protect Ukrainian citizens. And let's see those troops try to shoot their own people, with us behind them – not in the front, but behind. Let them just try to shoot at women and children! I would like to see those who would give that order in Ukraine.

QUESTION: Can I ask a question, Mr President? Our colleagues, my colleagues, who are currently working in Ukraine, are saying practically every day that the situation for the Berkut fighters is only getting worse (perhaps with the exception of Crimea). In particular, in Kiev, there are injured Berkut officers who are in hospitals now, where nobody is treating them and they are not even getting fed. And their families, including elderly family members, they simply cannot leave the house, because they are not being allowed; there are barricades all around, they are being humiliated. Can you comment on this? And can Russia help these families and colleagues?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Yes, this issue is of great concern to us. After all, these are not Russia's Interior Ministry officers, and we were not managing the situation there. But out of humanitarian considerations, it would be good if our human rights organisations got involved in this as well; we might ask Vladimir Lukin, either alone or together with his colleagues, representatives from France, Germany and Poland, with whom he participated in developing the well-known document of February 21, 2014, to go on location and see what is happening there with these Berkut officers, who have not broken any laws and acted in accordance with their orders. They are military service members, they stood there facing bullets, they were doused with fire and had Molotov cocktails thrown at them. They have been wounded and injured and are now in a hospital. It is even hard to imagine – even prisoners of war are being fed and treated. But they not only stopped treating them, they even stopped feeding them. And they have surrounded the building where these fighters' families live and are bullying them. I think that human rights organisations must pay attention to this. And we, for our part, are ready to provide them with medical care here in Russia.

QUESTION: Mr President, getting back to the West's reaction. Following the US Secretary of State's harsh statement, the Federation Council suggested that we recall our ambassador to the United States. Do you support this idea?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: The US Secretary of State is certainly an important person, but he is not the ultimate authority that determines the United States' foreign policy. We hear statements from various politicians and representatives of various political forces. This would be an extreme measure. If necessary, it will be used. But I really don't want to use it, because I think Russia is not the only one interested in cooperation with its partners on an international level and in such areas as economy, politics and foreign security; our partners are just as interested in this cooperation. It is very easy to destroy these instruments of cooperation and it would be very difficult to rebuild them.

QUESTION: Russia got involved in Yanukovych's fate. How do you see his future role and his future destiny?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: You know, it is very hard for me to say; I have not analysed it carefully. I think he has no political future, and I have told him so. As for "getting involved

in his fate" – we did this on purely humanitarian grounds. Death is the easiest way for getting rid of a legitimate president, and I think that is what would have happened. I think they would have simply killed him. Incidentally, the question arises: what for?

After all, look at how it all began, what triggered these events. The formal reason was that he did not sign the European Union Association Agreement. Today, this seems like nonsense; it is ridiculous to even talk about. But I want to point out that he did not refuse to sign the association agreement. He said: "We have carefully analysed it, and its content does not correspond with our national interests. We cannot sharply increase energy prices for our people, because our people are already in a rather difficult position. We cannot do this, and that, and that. We cannot immediately break our economic ties with Russia, because our cooperation is very extensive."

I have already presented these figures: out of approximately 14 billion [dollars] in export, approximately 5 billion represents second and third technological processing level products exported to Russia. In other words, just about all engineering products are exported to Russia; the West is not buying any Ukrainian products. And to take all this and break it apart, to introduce European technical standards in the Ukrainian economy, which, thankfully or unfortunately, we are not using at the moment. We will adopt those standards at some point, but currently, we do not have those standards in Russia. This means the next day, our relations and cooperation ties will be broken, enterprises will come to a standstill and unemployment will increase. And what did Yanukovych say? He said, "I cannot do this so suddenly, let's discuss this further." He did not refuse to sign it, he asked for a chance to discuss this document some more, and then all this craziness began.

And why? Did he do something outside the scope of his authority? He acted absolutely within the scope of his authority; he did not infringe on anything. It was simply an excuse to support the forces opposing him in a fight for power. Overall, this is nothing special. But did it really need to be taken to this level of anarchy, to an unconstitutional overthrow and armed seizure of power, subsequently plunging the nation into the chaos where it finds itself today? I think this is unacceptable. And it is not the first time our Western partners are doing this in Ukraine. I sometimes get the feeling that somewhere across that huge puddle, in America, people sit in a lab and conduct experiments, as if with rats, without actually understanding the consequences of what they are doing. Why did they need to do this? Who can explain this? There is no explanation at all for it.

The same thing happened during the first Maidan uprising, when Yanukovych was blocked from power. Why did we need that third round of elections? In other words, it was turned into a farce – Ukraine's political life was turned into a farce. There was no compliance with the Constitution at all. You see, we are now teaching people that if one person can violate any law, anyone else can do the same, and that's what causes chaos. That is the danger. Instead, we need to teach our society to follow other traditions: traditions of respecting the main law of the nation, the Constitution, and all other laws. Of course, we will not always succeed, but I think acting like this – like a bull in a china shop is counterproductive and very dangerous.

QUESTION: Mr President, Turchynov is illegitimate, from your point of view.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: As President, yes.

QUESTION: But the Rada is partially legitimate.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Yes.

QUESTION: Are Yatsenyuk and the Cabinet legitimate? And if Russia is concerned about the growing strength of radical elements, they grow stronger every time they find themselves facing a hypothetical enemy, which in their view, they currently consider Russia and Russia's position of being ready to send in troops. Question: Does it make sense and is it possible to hold talks with moderate forces in the Ukrainian government, with Yatsenyuk, and is he legitimate?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Listen, it seems like you didn't hear what I have said. I already said that three days ago, I gave instructions to the Government to renew contacts at the government level with their colleagues in the corresponding ministries and departments in Ukraine, in order not to disrupt economic ties, to support them in their attempts to reconstruct the economy. Those were my direct instructions to the Russian Government. Moreover, Mr Medvedev is in contact with [Arseniy] Yatsenyuk. And I know that Sergei Naryshkin, as speaker of the Russian parliament, is in contact with [Oleksandr] Turchynov. But, I repeat, all our trade and economic and other ties, our humanitarian ties, can be developed in full only after the situation is normalised and presidential elections are held.

QUESTION: Gazprom has already said that it is reverting to its old gas prices beginning in April.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Gazprom could not have said that; you were not listening carefully or it did not express itself clearly. Gazprom is not reverting to the old prices. It simply does not want to extend the current discounts, which it had agreed to apply or not apply on a quarterly basis. Even before all these events, even before they hit the crisis point. I know about the negotiations between Gazprom and its partners. Gazprom and the Government of the Russian Federation agreed that Gazprom would introduce a discount by reducing gas prices to $268.50 per 1,000 cubic metres. The Government of Russia provides the first tranche of the loan, which is formally not a loan but a bond purchase – a quasi-loan, $3 billion dollars in the first stage. And the Ukrainian side undertakes to fully repay its debt that arose in the second half of last year and to make regular payments for what they are consuming – for the gas. The debt has not been repaid, regular payments are not being made in full.

Moreover, if the Ukrainian partners fail to make the February payment, the debt will grow even bigger. Today it is around $1.5-1.6 billion. And if they do not fully pay for February, it will be nearly $2 billion. Naturally, in these circumstances, Gazprom says, "Listen guys, since you don't pay us anyway, and we are only seeing an increase in your debt, let's lock into the regular price, which is still reduced." This is a purely commercial component of Gazprom's activities, which plans for revenues and expendi-

tures in its investment plans like any other major company. If they do not receive the money from their Ukrainian partners on time, then they are undercutting their own investment programmes; this is a real problem for them. And incidentally, this does not have to do with the events in Ukraine or any politics. There was an agreement: "We give you money and reduced gas rates, and you give us regular payments." They gave them money and reduced gas rates, but the payments are not being made. So naturally, Gazprom says, "Guys, that won't work."

QUESTION: Mr President, [German Federal Chancellor] Merkel's Press Service said after your telephone conversation that you had agreed to send an international fact-finding mission to Ukraine and set up a contact group.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I said that we have people who have the training and skills needed to be able to examine this issue and discuss it with our German colleagues. This is all possible. I gave the instruction accordingly to our Foreign Minister, who was to or will meet with the German Foreign Minister, Mr Steinmeier, yesterday or today to discuss this matter.

QUESTION: All eyes are on Crimea at the moment of course, but we see what is happening in other parts of Ukraine too, in the east and south. We see what is happening in Kharkov, Donetsk, Lugansk and Odessa. People are raising the Russian flag over government buildings and appealing to Russia for aid and support. Will Russia respond to these events?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Do you think we have not made any response? I think we've just spent the last hour discussing this response. In some cases though, the developments taking place are unexpected in my view. I will not go into the specific details of what I am referring to here, but the reaction that we are seeing from people is understandable, in principle. Did our partners in the West and those who call themselves the government in Kiev now not foresee that events would take this turn? I said to them over and over: Why are you whipping the country into a frenzy like this? What are you doing? But they keep on pushing forward. Of course people in the eastern part of the country realise that they have been left out of the decision-making process.

Essentially, what is needed now is to adopt a new constitution and put it to a referendum so that all of Ukraine's citizens can take part in the process and influence the choice of basic principles that will form the foundations of their country's government. But this is not our affair of course. This is something for the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian authorities to decide one way or another. I think that once a legitimate government is in place and a new president and parliament are elected, which is what



is planned, this will probably go ahead. If I were them, I would return to the matter of adopting a constitution and, as I said, putting it to a referendum so that everyone can have their say on it, cast their vote, and then everyone will have to respect it. If people feel they are left out of this process, they will never agree with it and will keep on fighting it. Who needs this kind of thing? But as I said, this is all not our affair.

QUESTION: Will Russia recognise the planned presidential election that will take place in Ukraine?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Let's see how it goes. If it is accompanied by the same kind of terror that we are seeing now in Kiev, we will not recognise it.

QUESTION: I want to come back to the West's reaction. As all this tough talk continues, we have the Paralympics opening in a few days' time in Sochi. Are these Games at risk of ending up on the brink of disruption, at least as far as international media coverage goes?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I don't know, I think it would be the height of cynicism to put the Paralympics at risk. We all know that this is an international sports event at which people with disabilities can show their capabilities, prove to themselves and the entire world that they are not people with limitations, but on the contrary, people with unlimited possibilities, and demonstrate their achievements in sport. If there are people ready to try to disrupt this event, it would show that these are people for whom there really is nothing sacred.

"Our position is that if the people who call themselves the government now hope to be considered a civilised government, they must ensure the safety of all of their citizens, no matter in which part of the country, and we of course will follow this situation closely."

QUESTION: I want to ask about the hypothetical possibility of using the military. People in the West have said that if Russia makes such a decision, it would violate the Budapest Memorandum, under which the United States and some NATO partners consecrated territorial integrity of Ukraine in exchange for its promise to give up nuclear weapons. If developments take this turn, could global players intervene in this local conflict and turn it into a global conflict? Have you taken these risks into account?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Before making public statements, and all the more so before taking practical steps, we give issues due thought and attention and try to foresee the consequences and reactions that the various potential players could have.

As for the Memorandum that you mentioned, you said you are from Reuters, is that right?

RESPONSE: Yes.



VLADIMIR PUTIN: How do the public and political circles in your country view these events that have taken place? It is clear after all that this was an armed seizure of power. That is a clear and evident fact. And it is clear too that this goes against the Constitution. That is also a clear fact, is it not?

RESPONSE: I live in Russia.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Good on you! You should join the diplomatic service; you'd make a good diplomat. Diplomats' tongues, as we know, are there to hide their thoughts. So, we say that what we are seeing is an anti-constitutional coup, and we get told, no, it isn't. You have probably heard plenty of times now that this was not an anti-constitutional coup and not an armed seizure of power, but a revolution. Have you heard this?

RESPONSE: Yes.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Yes, but if this is revolution, what does this mean? In such a case it is hard not to agree with some of our experts who say that a new state is now emerging in this territory. This is just like what happened when the Russian Empire collapsed after the 1917 revolution and a new state emerged. And this would be a new state with which we have signed no binding agreements.

QUESTION: I want to clarify a point. You said that if the USA imposes sanctions, this would deal a blow to both economies. Does this imply that Russia might impose counter-sanctions of its own, and if so, would they be a symmetrical response?

You spoke about gas discounts too. But there was also the agreement to buy $15 billion worth of Ukrainian bonds. Ukraine received the first tranche at the end of last year. Has payment of the remaining money been suspended? If Russia provides aid, on what specific economic and political terms will this be done? And what political and economic risks are you taking into consideration in this case?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: To answer your question, we are in principle ready to look at taking the steps needed to make the other tranches available with regard to the purchase of bonds. But our Western partners have asked us not to do this. They have asked us to work together through the IMF to encourage the Ukrainian authorities to carry out the reforms needed to bring about recovery in the Ukrainian economy. We will continue working in this direction. But given that Naftogaz of Ukraine is not paying Gazprom now, the Government is considering various options.

QUESTION: Mr President, is the dynamic of events in Ukraine changing for the better or for the worse?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Overall, I think it is gradually starting to level out. We absolutely must send the signal to people in Ukraine's southeast that they can feel safe, and know that they will be able to take part in the general political process of stabilising the country.

QUESTION: You have made several mentions now of future legitimate elections in

Ukraine. Who do you see as compromise candidate? Of course you will say that this for the Ukrainian people to decide, but I ask you all the same.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: To be honest, I really don't know.

RESPONSE: It seems that the people also don't know, because no matter who you talk to, everyone seems to be at a loss.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I really can't say. You know, it's hard to make predictions after events of this kind. I have already said that I do not agree with this method of taking power and removing the incumbent authorities and president, and I strongly oppose this kind of method in Ukraine and in the post-Soviet area in general. I oppose this because this kind of method does not inculcate legal culture, respect for the law. If one person can get away with doing this, it means that everyone is allowed to try, and this only means chaos. You have to understand that this kind of chaos is the worst possible thing for countries with a shaky economy and unstable political system. In this kind of situation you never know what kind of people events will bring to the fore. Just recall, for example, the role that [Ernst] Roehm's storm troopers played during Hitler's rise to power. Later, these storm troopers were liquidated, but they played their part in bringing Hitler to power. Events can take all kinds of unexpected turns.

Let me say again that in situations when people call for fundamental political reform and new faces at the top, and with full justification too – and in this I agree with the Maidan – there is a risk too that you'll suddenly get some upstart nationalist or semi-fascist lot sprout up, like the genie suddenly let out of the bottle – and we see them today, people wearing armbands with something resembling swastikas, still roaming around Kiev at this moment – or some anti-Semite or other. This danger is there too.

QUESTION: Just today, incidentally, the Ukrainian envoy to the UN said that the crimes committed by Bandera's followers were falsified by the Soviet Union. With May 9 coming closer, we can see now who is in power there today. Should we even have any contacts with them at all?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: We need to have contact with everyone except for obvious criminals, but as I said, in this kind of situation, there is always the risk that events of this kind will bring people with extreme views to the fore, and this of course has serious consequences for the country.

QUESTION: You said that we should make contact with everyone. Yulia Tymoshenko was planning it seems, to come to Moscow.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: As you know, we always worked quite productively with all of the different Ukrainian governments, no matter what their political colour. We worked with Leonid Kuchma, and with [Viktor] Yushchenko. When I was Prime Minister, I worked with Tymoshenko. I visited her in Ukraine and she came here to Russia. We had to deal with all kinds of different situations in our work to manage our countries' economies. We had our differences, but we also reached agreements. Overall it was constructive work. If she wants to come to Russia, let her come. It's another matter that

she is no longer prime minister now. In what capacity will she come? But I personally have no intention of stopping her from coming to Russia.

QUESTION: Just a brief question: who do you think is behind this coup, as you called it, in Ukraine?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: As I said before, I think this was a well-prepared action. Of course there were combat detachments. They are still there, and we all saw how efficiently they worked. Their Western instructors tried hard of course. But this is not the real problem. If the Ukrainian government had been strong, confident, and had built a stable system, no nationalists would have been able to carry out those programs and achieve the results that we see now.

The real problem is that none of the previous Ukrainian governments gave proper attention to people's needs. Here in Russia we have many problems, and many of them are similar to those in Ukraine, but they are not as serious as in Ukraine. Average per capita [monthly] income in Russia, for example, is 29,700 rubles, but in Ukraine, if we convert it into rubles, it is 11,900 rubles, I think – almost three times lower than in Russia. The average pension in Russia is 10,700 rubles, but in Ukraine it is 5,500 rubles – twice lower than in Russia. Great Patriotic War veterans in Russia receive almost as much as the average worker each month. In other words, there is a substantial difference in living standards. This was what the various governments should have been focusing on right from the start. Of course they needed to fight crime, nepotism, clans and so on, especially in the economy. People see what is going on, and this creates lack of confidence in the authorities.

This has continued as several generations of modern Ukrainian politicians have come and gone, and the ultimate result is that people are disappointed and want to see a new system and new people in power. This was the main source of fuel for the events that took place. But let me say again: a change of power, judging by the whole situation, was probably necessary in Ukraine, but it should have taken place only through legitimate means, in respect for and not in violation of the current Constitution.

QUESTION: Mr President, if Crimea holds a referendum and the people there vote to secede from Ukraine, that is, if the majority of the region's residents vote for secession, would you support it?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: You can never use the conditional mood in politics. I will stick to that rule.

QUESTION: Is Yanukovych even still alive? There have been rumours that he died.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I have seen him once since he arrived in Russia. That was just two days ago. He was alive and well and wishes you the same. He'll still have a chance of catching a cold at the funeral of those who are spreading these rumours of his demise.

QUESTION: Mr President, what mistakes do you think Yanukovych made over these last months as the situation intensified in Ukraine?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I would rather not answer this question, not because I do not have an opinion to express, but because I do not think it would be proper on my part. You have to understand, after all…

QUESTION: Do you sympathise with him?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: No, I have completely different feelings. Anyone in this office bears an enormous responsibility on their shoulders as head of state, and they have rights and also obligations. But the biggest obligation of all is to carry out the will of the people who have entrusted you with the country, acting within the law. And so we need to analyse, did he do everything that the law and the voters' mandate empowered him to do? You can analyse this yourselves and draw your own conclusions.

QUESTION: But what feelings do you have for him? You said "not sympathy, but other feelings". What feelings exactly?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Let's talk later.

QUESTION: You said just two questions back that we must above all send a clear signal to people in the south and southeast of Ukraine. The southeast, that's understandable, but…

VLADIMIR PUTIN: We need to make our position clear to everyone, really.
We need to be heard by all of Ukraine's people. We have no enemies in Ukraine. Let me say again that Ukraine is a friendly country. Do you know how many people came from Ukraine to Russia last year? 3.3 million came, and of that number almost 3 million people came to Russia for work. These people are working here – around 3 million people. Do you know how much money they send back home to Ukraine to support their families? Count up the average wage of 3 million people. This comes to billions of dollars and makes a big contribution to Ukraine's GDP. This is no joking matter. We welcome all of them, and among the people coming here to work are also many from western Ukraine. They are all equal in our eyes, all brothers to us.

QUESTION: This is just what I wanted to ask about. We are hearing above all about the southeast of Ukraine at the moment, which is understandable, but there are ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking people living in western Ukraine too, and their situation is probably even worse. They probably cannot raise their heads at all and are a downtrodden minority there. What can Russia do to help them?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Our position is that if the people who call themselves the government now hope to be considered a civilised government, they must ensure the safety of all of their citizens, no matter in which part of the country, and we of course will follow this situation closely.

Thank you.

March 4, 2014, Novo-Ogaryovo, Moscow Region

SANCTIONS

Unfortunately, those who plan foreign policy actions in the United States (this is not a recent observation but one pertaining to the last 10-15 years) are conducting an aggressive foreign policy and, in my view, a rather unprofessional one, because whatever they do, there are problems everywhere.

Just look: there are problems in Afghanistan; Iraq is falling apart; Libya is falling apart. If General el-Sisi had not taken control in Egypt, Egypt would probably be in turmoil now as well. In Africa, there are problems in many countries. They touched Ukraine, and there are problems there as well.

It would be good if everyone understood that we must rely on the fundamental principles of international law and domestic law, and treat statehood and constitutionality with great care, particularly in nations that are just getting on their feet, where the political system is still fairly young and immature, and where the economy is still developing.

We need to treat state institutions with great care. There are grave consequences when they are regarded with disdain: disintegration and internal conflicts, as we are currently observing in Ukraine.

“The people who are pushing other countries toward such developments should never forget that the blood of the soldiers in the regular army, the blood of the fighters in the resistance, and the civilians, first and foremost, is on their hands, as are the tears of the mothers, widows and orphans – they are on their conscience, and they do not have any moral right to shrug off this responsibility onto anyone else’s shoulders.”

The people who are pushing other countries toward such developments should never forget that the blood of the soldiers in the regular army, the blood of the fighters in the resistance, and the civilians, first and foremost, is on their hands, as are the tears of the mothers, widows and orphans – they are on their conscience, and they do not have any moral right to shrug off this responsibility onto anyone else’s shoulders.

Here is what should be done jointly: calling on all sides in the conflict in Ukraine to immediately cease hostilities and start talks. But unfortunately, we are not seeing this on the part of our partners, first and foremost our American partners who, on the contrary, it seems to me, are pushing Ukraine’s current authorities toward continuing a fratricidal war and continuing retributive operations. This policy holds no promise.

A large part of the funding was to be used to support banking and the financial sector. From what I know most of this funding was transferred to banks privately owned by Ukrainian oligarchs.

Where is this money now, what happened to it, whose pockets did it end up in – this is something the IMF and the general public in Ukraine and in the countries supporting it should find out. Therefore, we should first stop the hostilities and then give money.

Apart from everything else, part of the first tranche of the funding was meant to be used to pay for Ukraine's commitments under foreign trade contracts. This includes payments for the delivery of Russian energy resources. We have not seen any of this money either.

What is happening to IMF funding is the same thing that happened to the Russian loans, to the billions of dollars Ukraine received from Russia late last year: there is no debt repayment, no current payments. We would very much like to know where our money is, what it was spent on.

If everything I spoke of is implemented, then of course we are in favour of supporting Ukraine, however not the Ukrainian oligarchs and thieves, but the Ukrainian people.

Q&A

QUESTION: Mr Putin, some clarification regarding the sanctions, if I may.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: What is there to clarify? We are not introducing any sanctions. Why don't you ask those who are?

QUESTION (via interpreter): Mr Putin, we are now talking about why a neighbouring country, Ukraine, is being torn apart by war. There is no other word for it. Now pro-Russian forces want to breach Ukraine's borders. Who can stop them and what is your policy?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I wouldn't call them either pro-Russian or pro-Ukrainian. They are people who have certain rights, political, humanitarian rights, and they must have a chance to exercise those rights.

For example, in Ukraine governors are still appointed by Kiev. After the anti-constitutional coup in Kiev last February, the first thing the new authorities tried to do was deprive the ethnic minorities of the right to use their native language. This caused great concern among the people living in eastern Ukraine.

QUESTION: You did not let this happen but are you saying that we are on the verge of another Cold War?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I hope we are not on the verge of any war. Second, I insist that people – wherever they live – have their rights and they must be able to fight for them. That's the point.

QUESTION: But, Mr President, the United States and the White House claim they have evidence that Russia intervened in the conflict, sent its troops and supplied weapons. They claim they have proof. Do you believe that?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Proof? Why don't they show it? The entire world remembers the US Secretary of State demonstrating the evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, waving around some test tube with washing powder in the UN Security Council. Eventually, the US troops invaded Iraq, Saddam Hussein was hanged and later it turned out there had never been any weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. You know, it's one thing to say things and another to actually have evidence. I will tell you again: no Russian troops…

QUESTION (via interpreter): Are you saying the US is lying?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Yes, it is. There are no armed forces, no Russian 'instructors' in southeastern Ukraine. And there never were any.

QUESTION (via interpreter): So you do not want to annex Ukraine and you never tried to destabilise the situation there?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: We never did that. The Ukrainian government must now sit down and talk with their own people instead of using weapons, tanks, planes and helicopters. They must start the negotiating process.

QUESTION (via interpreter): Do you recognise Ukraine's sovereignty and its neutral stance with respect to relations between Russia and the West?

QUESTION: Are you saying the US is lying?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Yes, it is.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Yes, we recognise its sovereignty. Moreover, we'd like Ukraine to act as a sovereign state. Joining any military bloc or any other rigid integration alliance amounts to a partial loss of sovereignty. But if a country opts for this and wants to cede part of its sovereignty, it's free to do so. Regarding Ukraine and military blocs, this is what worries us, because if Ukraine joins, say, NATO, NATO's infrastructure will move directly towards the Russian border, which cannot leave us indifferent..

SANCTIONS, Cont'd

VLADIMIR PUTIN: Regarding sanctions. It is primarily those who intend to apply them that need to consider their consequences. I believe that in the modern world, where everything is interconnected and interdependent, it is possible to cause damage to another country, but this will be mutual damage and one should bear this in mind. This is one thing.

The second and the most important thing. I have already told you what motivates us. And what motivates our partners? They supported an unconstitutional armed take-over, declared these people legitimate and are trying to support them. By the way, despite all of this we have been patient and even ready to cooperate; we do not want to disrupt our cooperation. As you may know, a few days ago I instructed the Government to consider how we can maintain contacts even with those powers in Kiev that we do not consider legitimate in order to retain our ties in the economy and industry. We think our actions have been absolutely reasonable, while any threat against Russia is counterproductive and harmful.

As for the G8, I do not know. We will be ready to host the summit with our colleagues. If they do not want to come – so be it.



Western nations want to chain 'the Russian bear' – Putin

Published time: December 18, 2014



Russian President Vladimir Putin speaks during his annual press conference in Moscow on December 18, 2014

Western nations want to chain “the Russian bear,” pull out its teeth and ultimately have it stuffed, Russian President Vladimir Putin warned. He said anti-Russian sanc-

tions are the cost of being an independent nation.

Putin used the vivid metaphor of a “chained bear” during his annual Q&A session with the media in Moscow in response to a question about whether he believed that the troubles of the Russian economy were payback for the reunification with Crimea. “It’s not payback for Crimea. It’s the cost of our natural desire to preserve Russia as a nation, a civilization and a state,” Putin said.

The president said that even if “the Russian bear” started “sitting tight… and eating berries and honey,” this would not stop pressure being applied against the country.

“They won’t leave us alone. They will always seek to chain us. And once we are chain, they’ll rip out our teeth and claws. Our nuclear deterrence, speaking in present-day terms,” Putin said.

“As soon as this [chaining the bear] happens, nobody will need it anymore. They’ll stuff it. And start to put their hands on his Taiga [Siberian forest belt] after it. We’ve heard statements from Western officials that Russia’s owning Siberia was not fair,” he exclaimed.

“Stealing Texas from Mexico – was that fair? And us having control over our own land is not fair. We should hand it out!”

The West had an anti-Russian stance long before the current crisis started, Putin said. The evidence is there, he said, ranging from“direct support of terrorism in the North Caucasus,” to the expansion of NATO and the creation of its anti-ballistic missile system in Eastern Europe, and the way the western media covered the Olympic Games in Sochi, Putin said.

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NATIONAL SECURITY

Speech at the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy 02/10/2007

Thank you very much dear Madam Federal Chancellor, Mr Teltschik, ladies and gentlemen!

I am truly grateful to be invited to such a representative conference that has assembled politicians, military officials, entrepreneurs and experts from more than 40 nations.

"If my comments seem unduly polemical, pointed or inexact to our colleagues, then I would ask you not to get angry with me. After all, this is only a conference."

This conference's structure allows me to avoid excessive politeness and the need to speak in roundabout, pleasant but empty diplomatic terms. This conference's format will allow me to say what I really think about international security problems. And if my comments seem unduly polemical, pointed or inexact to our colleagues, then I would ask you not to get angry with me. After all, this is only a conference. And I hope that after the first two or three minutes of my speech Mr Teltschik will not turn on the red light over there.

Therefore. It is well known that international security comprises much more than issues relating to military and political stability. It involves the stability of the global economy, overcoming poverty, economic security and developing a dialogue between civilisations.

This universal, indivisible character of security is expressed as the basic principle that "security for one is security for all". As Franklin D. Roosevelt said during the first few days that the Second World War was breaking out: "When peace has been broken anywhere, the peace of all countries everywhere is in danger."

These words remain topical today. Incidentally, the theme of our conference – global crises, global responsibility – exemplifies this.

Only two decades ago the world was ideologically and economically divided and it was the huge strategic potential of two superpowers that ensured global security.

This global stand-off pushed the sharpest economic and social problems to the margins of the international community's and the world's agenda.
And, just like any war, the Cold War left us with live ammunition, figuratively speaking. I am referring to ideological stereotypes, double standards and other typical aspects

of Cold War bloc thinking.

The unipolar world that had been proposed after the Cold War did not take place, either.

The history of humanity certainly has gone through unipolar periods and seen aspirations to world supremacy. And what hasn't happened in world history?

However, what is a unipolar world? However one might embellish this term, at the end of the day it refers to one type of situation, namely one centre of authority, one centre of force, one centre of decision-making.

It is world in which there is one master, one sovereign. 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.

And this certainly has nothing in common with democracy. Because, as you know, democracy is the power of the majority in light of the interests and opinions of the minority.

Incidentally, Russia – we – are constantly being taught about democracy. But for some reason those who teach us do not want to learn themselves.

"Incidentally, Russia – we – are constantly being taught about democracy. But for some reason those who teach us do not want to learn themselves."

I consider that the unipolar model is not only unacceptable but also impossible in today's world. And this is not only because if there was individual leadership in today's – and precisely in today's – world, then the military, political and economic resources would not suffice. What is even more important is that the model itself is flawed because at its basis there is and can be no moral foundations for modern civilisation.

Along with this, what is happening in today's world – and we just started to discuss this – is a tentative to introduce precisely this concept into international affairs, the concept of a unipolar world.



And with which results?

Unilateral and frequently illegitimate actions have not resolved any problems. Moreover, they have caused new human tragedies and created new centres of tension. Judge for yourselves: wars as well as local and regional conflicts have not dimin-

ished. Mr Teltschik mentioned this very gently. And no less people perish in these conflicts – even more are dying than before. Significantly more, significantly more!

Today we are witnessing an almost uncontained hyper use of force – military force – in international relations, force that is plunging the world into an abyss of permanent conflicts. As a result we do not have sufficient strength to find a comprehensive solution to any one of these conflicts. Finding a political settlement also becomes impossible.

We are seeing a greater and greater disdain for the basic principles of international law. And independent legal norms are, as a matter of fact, coming increasingly closer to one state's legal system. One state and, of course, first and foremost the United States, has overstepped its national borders in every way. This is visible in the economic, political, cultural and educational policies it imposes on other nations. Well, who likes this? Who is happy about this?

In international relations we increasingly see the desire to resolve a given question according to so-called issues of political expediency, based on the current political climate.

And of course this is extremely dangerous. It results in the fact that no one feels safe. I want to emphasise this – no one feels safe! Because no one can feel that international law is like a stone wall that will protect them. Of course such a policy stimulates an arms race.

The force's dominance inevitably encourages a number of countries to acquire weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, significantly new threats – though they were also well-known before – have appeared, and today threats such as terrorism have taken on a global character.

I am convinced that we have reached that decisive moment when we must seriously think about the architecture of global security.

And we must proceed by searching for a reasonable balance between the interests of all participants in the international dialogue. Especially since the international landscape is so varied and changes so quickly – changes in light of the dynamic development in a whole number of countries and regions.

Madam Federal Chancellor already mentioned this. The combined GDP measured in purchasing power parity of countries such as India and China is already greater than that of the United States. And a similar calculation with the GDP of the BRIC countries – Brazil, Russia, India and China – surpasses the cumulative GDP of the EU. And according to experts this gap will only increase in the future.

There is no reason to doubt that the economic potential of the new centres of global economic growth will inevitably be converted into political influence and will strengthen multipolarity.

In connection with this the role of multilateral diplomacy is significantly increasing. The need for principles such as openness, transparency and predictability in politics is uncontested and the use of force should be a really exceptional measure, comparable to using the death penalty in the judicial systems of certain states.

However, today we are witnessing the opposite tendency, namely a situation in which countries that forbid the death penalty even for murderers and other, dangerous criminals are airily participating in military operations that are difficult to consider legitimate. And as a matter of fact, these conflicts are killing people – hundreds and thousands of civilians!

But at the same time the question arises of whether we should be indifferent and aloof to various internal conflicts inside countries, to authoritarian regimes, to tyrants, and to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction? As a matter of fact, this was also at the centre of the question that our dear colleague Mr Lieberman asked the Federal Chancellor. If I correctly understood your question (addressing Mr Lieberman), then of course it is a serious one! Can we be indifferent observers in view of what is happening? I will try to answer your question as well: of course not.

But do we have the means to counter these threats? Certainly we do. It is sufficient to look at recent history. Did not our country have a peaceful transition to democracy? Indeed, we witnessed a peaceful transformation of the Soviet regime – a peaceful transformation! And what a regime! With what a number of weapons, including nuclear weapons! Why should we start bombing and shooting now at every available opportunity? Is it the case when without the threat of mutual destruction we do not have enough political culture, respect for democratic values and for the law?

“However, today we are witnessing the opposite tendency, namely a situation in which countries that forbid the death penalty even for murderers and other, dangerous criminals are airily participating in military operations that are difficult to consider legitimate. And as a matter of fact, these conflicts are killing people – hundreds and thousands of civilians!”

I am convinced that the only mechanism that can make decisions about using military force as a last resort is the Charter of the United Nations. And in connection with this, either I did not understand what our colleague, the Italian Defence Minister, just said or what he said was inexact. In any case, I understood that the use of force can only be legitimate when the decision is taken by NATO, the EU, or the UN. If he really does think so, then we have different points of view. Or I didn’t hear correctly. The use of force can only be considered legitimate if the decision is sanctioned by the UN. And we do not need to substitute NATO or the EU for the UN. When

the UN will truly unite the forces of the international community and can really react to events in various countries, when we will leave behind this disdain for international law, then the situation will be able to change. Otherwise the situation will simply result in a dead end, and the number of serious mistakes will be multiplied. Along with this, it is necessary to make sure that international law have a universal character both in the conception and application of its norms.

And one must not forget that democratic political actions necessarily go along with discussion and a laborious decision-making process.

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

The potential danger of the destabilisation of international relations is connected with obvious stagnation in the disarmament issue.

Russia supports the renewal of dialogue on this important question.

It is important to conserve the international legal framework relating to weapons destruction and therefore ensure continuity in the process of reducing nuclear weapons.

Together with the United States of America we agreed to reduce our nuclear strategic missile capabilities to up to 1700-2000 nuclear warheads by 31 December 2012. Russia intends to strictly fulfil the obligations it has taken on. We hope that our partners will also act in a transparent way and will refrain from laying aside a couple of hundred superfluous nuclear warheads for a rainy day. And if today the new American Defence Minister declares that the United States will not hide these superfluous weapons in warehouse or, as one might say, under a pillow or under the blanket, then I suggest that we all rise and greet this declaration standing. It would be a very important declaration.

Russia strictly adheres to and intends to further adhere to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as well as the multilateral supervision regime for missile technologies. The principles incorporated in these documents are universal ones.

In connection with this I would like to recall that in the 1980s the USSR and the United States signed an agreement on destroying a whole range of small- and medium-range missiles but these documents do not have a universal character.

Today many other countries have these missiles, including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, India, Iran, Pakistan and Israel. Many countries are working on these systems and plan to incorporate them as part of their weapons arsenals. And only the United States and Russia bear the responsibility to not create such weapons systems.
It is obvious that in these conditions we must think about ensuring our own security.

At the same time, it is impossible to sanction the appearance of new, destabilising high-tech weapons. Needless to say it refers to measures to prevent a new area of confrontation, especially in outer space. Star wars is no longer a fantasy – it is a real-

ity. In the middle of the 1980s our American partners were already able to intercept their own satellite.

In Russia's opinion, the militarisation of outer space could have unpredictable consequences for the international community, and provoke nothing less than the beginning of a nuclear era. And we have come forward more than once with initiatives designed to prevent the use of weapons in outer space.

Today I would like to tell you that we have prepared a project for an agreement on the prevention of deploying weapons in outer space. And in the near future it will be sent to our partners as an official proposal. Let's work on this together.

Plans to expand certain elements of the anti-missile defence system to Europe cannot help but disturb us. Who needs the next step of what would be, in this case, an inevitable arms race? I deeply doubt that Europeans themselves do.

Missile weapons with a range of about five to eight thousand kilometres that really pose a threat to Europe do not exist in any of the so-called problem countries. And in the near future and prospects, this will not happen and is not even foreseeable. And any hypothetical launch of, for example, a North Korean rocket to American territory through western Europe obviously contradicts the laws of ballistics. As we say in Russia, it would be like using the right hand to reach the left ear.

And here in Germany I cannot help but mention the pitiable condition of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The Adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe was signed in 1999. It took into account a new geopolitical reality, namely the elimination of the Warsaw bloc. Seven years have passed and only four states have ratified this document, including the Russian Federation.

NATO countries openly declared that they will not ratify this treaty, including the provisions on flank restrictions (on deploying a certain number of armed forces in the flank zones), until Russia removed its military bases from Georgia and Moldova. Our army is leaving Georgia, even according to an accelerated schedule. We resolved the problems we had with our Georgian colleagues, as everybody knows. There are still 1,500 servicemen in Moldova that are carrying out peacekeeping operations and protecting warehouses with ammunition left over from Soviet times. We constantly discuss this issue with Mr Solana and he knows our position. We are ready to further work in this direction.

But what is happening at the same time? Simultaneously the so-called flexible frontline American bases with up to five thousand men in each. It turns out that NATO has put its frontline forces on our borders, and we continue to strictly fulfil the treaty obligations and do not react to these actions at all.

I think it is obvious that NATO expansion does not have any relation with the modernisation of the Alliance itself or with ensuring security in Europe. On the contrary, it

represents a serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust. And we have the right to ask: against whom is this expansion intended? And what happened to the assurances our western partners made after the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact? Where are those declarations today? No one even remembers them. But I will allow myself to remind this audience what was said. I would like to quote the speech of NATO General Secretary Mr Woerner in Brussels on 17 May 1990. He said at the time that: “the fact that we are ready not to place a NATO army outside of German territory gives the Soviet Union a firm security guarantee”. Where are these guarantees?

The stones and concrete blocks of the Berlin Wall have long been distributed as souvenirs. But we should not forget that the fall of the Berlin Wall was possible thanks to a historic choice – one that was also made by our people, the people of Russia – a choice in favour of democracy, freedom, openness and a sincere partnership with all the members of the big European family.

“I think it is obvious that NATO expansion does not have any relation with the modernisation of the Alliance itself or with ensuring security in Europe. On the contrary, it represents a serious provocation that reduces the level of mutual trust.”

And now they are trying to impose new dividing lines and walls on us – these walls may be virtual but they are nevertheless dividing, ones that cut through our continent. And is it possible that we will once again require many years and decades, as well as several generations of politicians, to dissemble and dismantle these new walls?

Dear ladies and gentlemen!

We are unequivocally in favour of strengthening the regime of non-proliferation. The present international legal principles allow us to develop technologies to manufacture nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes. And many countries with all good reasons want to create their own nuclear energy as a basis for their energy independence. But we also understand that these technologies can be quickly transformed into nuclear weapons.

This creates serious international tensions. The situation surrounding the Iranian nuclear programme acts as a clear example. And if the international community does not find a reasonable solution for resolving this conflict of interests, the world will continue to suffer similar, destabilising crises because there are more threshold countries than simply Iran. We both know this. We are going to constantly fight against the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Last year Russia put forward the initiative to establish international centres for the enrichment of uranium. We are open to the possibility that such centres not only be created in Russia, but also in other countries where there is a legitimate basis for using civil nuclear energy. Countries that want to develop their nuclear energy could guarantee that they will receive fuel through direct participation in these centres. And

the centres would, of course, operate under strict IAEA supervision.

The latest initiatives put forward by American President George W. Bush are in conformity with the Russian proposals. I consider that Russia and the USA are objectively and equally interested in strengthening the regime of the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their deployment. It is precisely our countries, with leading nuclear and missile capabilities, that must act as leaders in developing new, stricter non-proliferation measures. Russia is ready for such work. We are engaged in consultations with our American friends.

In general, we should talk about establishing a whole system of political incentives and economic stimuli whereby it would not be in states' interests to establish their own capabilities in the nuclear fuel cycle but they would still have the opportunity to develop nuclear energy and strengthen their energy capabilities.

"It is obvious that energy prices must be determined by the market instead of being the subject of political speculation, economic pressure or blackmail."

In connection with this I shall talk about international energy cooperation in more detail. Madam Federal Chancellor also spoke about this briefly – she mentioned, touched on this theme. In the energy sector Russia intends to create uniform market principles and transparent conditions for all. It is obvious that energy prices must be determined by the market instead of being the subject of political speculation, economic pressure or blackmail.

We are open to cooperation. Foreign companies participate in all our major energy projects. According to different estimates, up to 26 percent of the oil extraction in Russia – and please think about this figure – up to 26 percent of the oil extraction in Russia is done by foreign capital. Try, try to find me a similar example where Russian business participates extensively in key economic sectors in western countries. Such examples do not exist! There are no such examples.

I would also recall the parity of foreign investments in Russia and those Russia makes abroad. The parity is about fifteen to one. And here you have an obvious example of the openness and stability of the Russian economy.

Economic security is the sector in which all must adhere to uniform principles. We are ready to compete fairly.

For that reason more and more opportunities are appearing in the Russian economy. Experts and our western partners are objectively evaluating these changes. As such, Russia's OECD sovereign credit rating improved and Russia passed from the fourth to the third group. And today in Munich I would like to use this occasion to thank our German colleagues for their help in the above decision.

Furthermore. As you know, the process of Russia joining the WTO has reached its final stages. I would point out that during long, difficult talks we heard words about freedom of speech, free trade, and equal possibilities more than once but, for some reason, exclusively in reference to the Russian market.

And there is still one more important theme that directly affects global security. Today many talk about the struggle against poverty. What is actually happening in this sphere? On the one hand, financial resources are allocated for programmes to help the world's poorest countries – and at times substantial financial resources. But to be honest -- and many here also know this – linked with the development of that same donor country's companies. And on the other hand, developed countries simultaneously keep their agricultural subsidies and limit some countries' access to high-tech products.

And let's call things as they are – one hand distributes charitable help and the other hand not only preserves economic backwardness but also reaps the profits thereof. The increasing social tension in depressed regions inevitably results in the growth of radicalism, extremism, feeds terrorism and local conflicts. And if all this happens in, shall we say, a region such as the Middle East where there is increasingly the sense that the world at large is unfair, then there is the risk of global destabilisation.

It is obvious that the world's leading countries should see this threat. And that they should therefore build a more democratic, fairer system of global economic relations, a system that would give everyone the chance and the possibility to develop.

Dear ladies and gentlemen, speaking at the Conference on Security Policy, it is impossible not to mention the activities of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). As is well-known, this organisation was created to examine all – I shall



emphasise this – all aspects of security: military, political, economic, humanitarian and, especially, the relations between these spheres.

What do we see happening today? We see that this balance is clearly destroyed. People are trying to transform the OSCE into a vulgar instrument designed to promote the foreign policy interests of one or a group of countries. And this task is also being accomplished by the OSCE's bureaucratic apparatus which is absolutely not connected with the state founders in any way. Decision-making procedures and the involvement of so-called non-governmental organisations are tailored for this task. These organisations are formally independent but they are purposefully financed and therefore under control.

"And let's call things as they are – one hand distributes charitable help and the other hand not only preserves economic backwardness but also reaps the profits thereof."

According to the founding documents, in the humanitarian sphere the OSCE is designed to assist country members in observing international human rights norms at their request. This is an important task. We support this. But this does not mean interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, and especially not imposing a regime that determines how these states should live and develop.
It is obvious that such interference does not promote the development of democratic states at all. On the contrary, it makes them dependent and, as a consequence, politically and economically unstable.

We expect that the OSCE be guided by its primary tasks and build relations with sovereign states based on respect, trust and transparency.

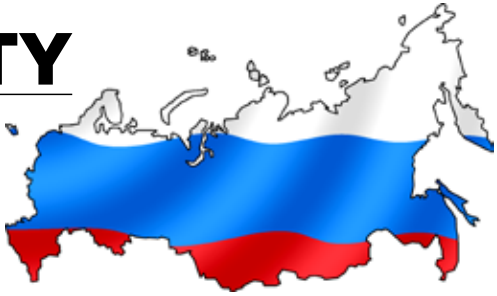
Dear ladies and gentlemen!

In conclusion I would like to note the following. We very often – and personally, I very often – hear appeals by our partners, including our European partners, to the effect that Russia should play an increasingly active role in world affairs.

In connection with this I would allow myself to make one small remark. It is hardly necessary to incite us to do so. Russia is a country with a history that spans more than a thousand years and has practically always used the privilege to carry out an independent foreign policy.

We are not going to change this tradition today. At the same time, we are well aware of how the world has changed and we have a realistic sense of our own opportunities and potential. And of course we would like to interact with responsible and independent partners with whom we could work together in constructing a fair and democratic world order that would ensure security and prosperity not only for a select few, but for all.

SOVEREIGNTY



“Sovereignty and territorial integrity are fundamental values, as I have already said. We are referring to the maintenance of the independence and unity of our state, to the reliable protection of our territory, our constitutional system and to the timely neutralisation of internal and external threats, of which there are quite a few in the world today. I should make it clear from the start that, obviously, there is no direct military threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of this country. Primarily, the strategic balance of forces in the world guarantees this.

We, on our part, strictly comply with the norms of international law and with our commitments to our partners, and we expect other countries, unions of states and military-political alliances to do the same, while Russia is fortunately not a member of any alliance. This is also a guarantee of our sovereignty.

Any nation that is part of an alliance gives up part of its sovereignty. This does not always meet the national interests of a given country, but this is their sovereign decision. We expect our national legal interests to be respected, while any controversies that always exist, to be resolved only through diplomatic efforts, by means of negotiations. Nobody should interfere in our internal affairs.

However, ever more frequently today we hear of ultimatums and sanctions. The very notion of state sovereignty is being washed out. Undesirable regimes, countries that conduct an independent policy or that simply stand in the way of somebody’s interests get destabilised. Tools used for this purpose are the so-called colour revolutions, or, in simple terms – takeovers instigated and financed from the outside.

– Security Council meeting
July 22, 2014, 15:40 The Kremlin, Moscow

http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/22714

However, ever more frequently today we hear of ultimatums and sanctions. The very notion of state sovereignty is being washed out.

"On the whole, today, more and more countries see the potential of this association. That is why, in the future, the issue of gradually expanding BRICS is likely to be raised."

BRICS

(The new association of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.)

"It is time to raise the BRICS' role to a new level." – Vladimir Putin

Ahead of the BRICS summit, Russia's president spoke about the prospects of developing the 'five', settlement of local conflicts, and sanctions attacks on Russia in an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS. Excerpts:

Q. *The BRICS association, whose significance is increasing in the modern multipolar world, could advance important changes in international relations. What is the agenda, and what plans do you, as the Russian leader, consider it important to discuss with your BRICS partners at the upcoming summit?*

A. The modern world is indeed multipolar, complex, and dynamic – this is objective reality. Any attempts to create a model of international relations where all decisions are made within a single 'pole' are ineffective, malfunction regularly, and are ultimately set to fail.

Those are the reasons why the interaction format proposed by Russia for such influential states such as the BRICS members has proved to be needed. **Our joint efforts have truly contributed to enhancing predictability and sustainability in international relations.**

I believe it is time to raise the BRICS' role to a new level and to make our association an unalienable part of the global management system for sustainable development. How can this be achieved in practice?

First of all, to develop cooperation in the UN in every possible way, persistently counteract individual states' attempts to impose on the international community the policy of displacing unwanted regimes and promoting unilateral solutions to crisis situations. We propose to create a mechanism of regular high-level consultations between our foreign ministries on different regional conflicts to agree, where possible, on common positions and joint efforts to ensure their political and diplomatic settlement.

We should coordinate BRICS policy more actively and counteract security threats and challenges, including counter-terrorism. Among other ways, this can be achieved through the mechanism of counter-terrorism consultations. An important place on the agenda will be devoted to expanding cooperation to combat drug trafficking. We are ready to build up joint efforts to reinforce the international legal regime of drug control.

Cooperation in setting rules of responsible behavior in the global information space is another important issue. Such rules must be based on the principles of respect for a country's sovereignty, non-interference in do-

mestic affairs, observance of human rights and freedoms, as well as equal rights for all countries to participate in Internet management. I think our joint efforts will ensure that the BRICS countries hold a leading position in strengthening international information security.

We are planning to shape a joint information policy in the international arena to support BRICS' activity and to present a more unbiased picture of the world. Naturally, we are going to thoroughly analyse the situation in the planet's hotspots. Those include Syria and Iraq, where the positions of extremist and terrorist groups are gaining strength. Serious attention should be given to the crisis in Ukraine and the international community's measures to stop the bloodshed in the southeast of the country.

In the economic sphere, we are going to discuss the IMF reform. The BRICS countries are concerned about the unreasonable delay in holding a debate of this subject. This jeopardizes all the efforts of G20 in this direction. In the meantime, it is the case of fulfilling the rightful demands of "new economies" to balance the IMF according to the 21st century reality.

One more important question we are going to raise at the summit is the increasing cases of unilateral sanctions.

Recently Russia has been exposed to a sanction attack from the United States and its allies. We are grateful to our BRICS partners who have criticized such practices in different forms. At the same time, substantive conclusions should be drawn from the current situation.

Together we should think about a system of measures that would help prevent the harassment of countries that do not agree with some foreign policy decisions made by the United States and their allies, but would promote a civilized dialogue on all points at issue based on mutual respect.

- What progress has been made in realizing plans to develop economic interaction within BRICS? Some time ago, there was talk about setting up the association's own bank; however, this initiative has not been realized yet. What are the prospects in this area? Do you believe it is possible for the BRICS countries to elaborate specific joint plans of action in response to different challenges?

- We intend to actively develop trade and economic ties within the association. The BRICS member countries' share in Russian foreign trade balance is rising steadily: last year it was 12.5 percent, but only for in first four months of this year it has already reached 13.1 percent. Despite instability in the international economy, the volume of the BRICS countries' mutual trade is increasing (in 2013, it was over $300 billion).

First of all, this is the common intention to reform the international monetary and financial system. In the present form it is unjust to the BRICS countries and to new economies in general. We should take a more active part in the IMF and the World Bank's decision-making system. The international monetary system itself depends a lot on the US dollar, or, to be precise, on the monetary and financial policy of the US authorities. The BRICS

countries want to change this.

It is in our common interest to use the complementarity of national economies to the maximum. **Cooperation opportunities are great indeed. This is the market with almost three billion consumers. The BRICS countries have unique natural resources and a substantial technological, financial and industrial potential.**

On Russia's initiative the BRICS' Economic Cooperation Strategy is being drafted at the moment. It will focus on creating preconditions for accelerated economic development and strengthening the international competitiveness of our countries, the expansion and diversification of trade relations, and ensuring interaction for innovative growth. A number of prospective cooperation ventures are being studied to make sure the document is backed by concrete investment projects.

It is clear that all the BRICS economies need serious infrastructure modernization. Our initiative to establish the Development Bank is aimed at expanding cooperation in this sphere. In the year since the Durban Summit, we have managed to achieve significant progress in this direction. In the near future, we expect to finalize all the remaining issues and we will be able to use this Bank's potential to realize major projects in our countries.

Another important initiative that is underway is creating a BRICS pool of foreign currency reserves. It will become a safety net to help us form a joint response to economic challenges.

I would like to emphasize that both the Development Bank and the foreign currency reserves pool are practical steps for our countries, intended to strengthen international financial architecture and to make it more balanced and just.

The BRICS countries have shared attitudes towards other modern challenges in the economy, including the prompt completion of the Doha Round Negotiations, creating a more just global trade system and ensuring transparency in regional trade agreements.

The international monetary and financial system is in the present form unjust to the BRICS countries and to new economies in general.

Another long-term common interest of the association's members is strengthening the rule of international law and the UN's leading role in the international system. To be honest, without Russia's and China's principled position on Syria in the Security Council the events in that country would have followed the Libyan and Iraqi scenario.

Certainly, the BRICS countries intend to strengthen the political element of our cooperation. That is why we will develop the practice of mutual consultations and joint actions in international organisations, first of all, in the UN. In the long term, we will create a virtual BRICS secretariat. (© ITAR-TASS/Mikhail Metzel)

FRACKING

“Russia also has ample opportunities to develop shale gas, and to mine it in the conventional way. Judging by estimated resources our country is probably number one in the world, as you know. We have trillions [of tonnes] of reserves. We will be able to meet our own long-term demand, even if the economy grows, and that of all of our partners. So for us today this is simply not topical. If the technology improves, we would not rule out this option for ourselves.

“Can the United States enter international markets with its shale gas? Maybe yes, maybe no. And if it does, the volumes will probably be very small and global markets will not be affected. So we are not worried about this. Indeed, the only worries we have are environmental ones, because shale gas extraction is a very barbaric way of extracting mineral resources. And I consider it unacceptable to use the existing technology in European countries, including Russia, and this in spite of our huge territory. In any case, this work is not possible given the current level of technology.”

– News conference following the working meeting of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) summit

July 1, 2013, 19:00 The Kremlin, Moscow
http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/transcripts/5666



THE UNILATERAL USE OF FORCE

On the eve of the G20 Summit, 2013, Vladimir Putin gave an interview to Channel One and the Associated Press. The interview was recorded in Novo-Ogaryovo on September 3, 2013. At the time of the interview, chemical weapons had been used in Syria and the investigation into which side – the government or the rebels – had used the weapons had not yet been completed.

JOHN DANISZEWSKI: What would Russia's position be if you became convinced that it [the chemical gas attack in Syria which killed numerous civilians] was by the government of Syria? Would you agree to a military action?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: I do not rule that out, but I would like to draw your attention to one absolutely key aspect. In line with existing international law, only the United Nations Security Council could sanction the use of force against a sovereign state. Any other pretext or method to justify the use of force against an independent sovereign state is inadmissible and can only be interpreted as an aggression...

We do not defend this [the Assad] government [in Syria]. We are defending absolutely different things. We are defending the norms and principles of international law. We are defending modern world order. We are defending the possibility, the discussion of a possibility to use force only within the existing international order, international rules and international law. That is what we are defending. That is what represents the absolute value. When issues related to the use of force are dealt with outside the framework of the UN and Security Council, then there's risk that such unlawful decisions might be applied against anybody and on any pretext.

"We are defending the norms and principles of international law. We are defending modern world order."

On use of weapons of mass destruction:

I would like to say that our stand [on the situation in Syria] is principled because the use of weapons of mass destruction is a crime.

http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/news/5935

A NEW ARMS RACE

On the possibility of a new arms race emerging, Putin said that Russia will be forced to secure itself through “different ways and means” should it come down to that.

“If our proposals [on a common missile defense shield] are met with only negative replies, and, on top of that, in the vicinity of our borders there is built additional threats in an already tense region, then Russia will be forced to ensure its security through different means and ways,” the premier affirmed. Concerning the possibility of an arms race breaking out over the issue, Putin stressed that nobody wanted to see such a scenario.

"That's not our choice. We don't want that to happen. But this is not a threat on our part," he said. "We've been simply saying that this is what all of us expects to happen if we don't agree on a joint effort there."

Putin stressed that his words were not meant as a threat, but a realistic approach to the situation.

King responded: “Well, you’re saying it’s not a threat, but it does sound like a threat.”

King went on to quote an article in *The Wall Street Journal* that says Russia is moving “short-range tactical nuclear warheads near NATO allies as recently as this spring."

"Was that true,” the talk show host inquired.

“Larry, please listen to me,” Putin said.

“I want you and all of the American people to know this…It’s not us who are moving our missiles forward towards your territory; it’s you who are planning to mount missiles on the vicinity of our borders.

“We’ve been told that you will proceed with these plans in order to secure you against, let’s say, the Iranian nuclear threat. But such a threat as of now does not exist.”



Putin then stressed that in the case a missile defense would be employed close to Russia's borders, Russia would be forced to act.

"Now, if the anti-missile system is employed in the year 2015 near our borders, they will work against our nuclear potential, our nuclear arsenal. And certainly that worries us and we are obliged to take some actions in response. "We are talking about actions in response," Putin repeated, "not about taking the first initiative there."

Putin then repeated what President Medvedev had told NATO member states in Lisbon during the military bloc's summit, which is that NATO and the United States should be responsible for one sector of European security, and Russia the other.

"At least in Russia, you cannot just go and tap into someone's phone conversation without a warrant issued by court. That's more or less the way a civilized society should go about fighting terrorism."

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin_2.html#JkByUveTlPM3Wekk.99

EDWARD SNOWDEN

QUESTION: My question has to do with international politics. According to available information, Edward Snowden came to Moscow and may still be there. The United States has criticised Russia's actions very sharply, accusing it of aiding a criminal. My question is to President Putin: how serious is this issue for Russian-US relations and how do you feel about this criticism?

VLADIMIR PUTIN: It is true that Mr Snowden arrived in Moscow, which was completely unexpected for us. He came as a transit passenger, so he didn't need a visa or other documents. As a transit passenger, he has the right to buy a plane ticket and go wherever he wants.

However, he does not need a visa because he did not cross the state border. Therefore, any accusations against Russia are just nonsense. He is a transit passenger and remains in the transit hall. Our special services never worked with Mr Snowden and are not working with him now.



As for his possible extradition, we can extradite foreign nationals only to those countries with which we have relevant international agreements on the extradition of criminals. We have no such agreement with the United States. Mr Snowden has committed no crimes in the Russian Federation.

There is a similar case with Mr Assange, regarding whom we have also received extradition demands and who is also considered a criminal. Like Mr Snowden, he considers himself a human rights activist and fights for the freedom of information. Ask yourself this: should we extradite such people so that they can be imprisoned on not?

In any case, I personally would prefer not to get involved in such cases. It's like shearing a piglet: there's a lot of squealing and very little wool. I would rather leave it to [FBI Director Robert] Mueller and [Russian Federal Security Service Director Alexander] Bortnikov to resolve this. I hope that it does not affect our business relations with the United States. And I hope that our partners will understand our position.

"Russia is not a country that is ready to extradite fighters for human rights." – News conference
SOURCE: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZ9N1wHAPdk

TAXES and TAX HAVENS

On the eve of the G20 Summit, Vladimir Putin gave an interview to Channel One and the Associated Press news agency. The interview was recorded in Novo-Ogaryovo on September 3, 2013.

In the quote below, President Putin discusses changes to the taxation system as a component of a strategy to promote economic growth.

“I am talking about a set of measures aimed at boosting growth in the world economy and creating new jobs. These are two main tasks. At the same time, we believe that to fulfil these crucial tasks we need to accomplish several sub-tasks, in particular to promote investment, to make the world economy more transparent and to take action, as I have already mentioned, in the field of tax administration, in banking system, etc.

“Incidentally, as regards tax administration and improvement of tax system, it includes measures to prevent tax evasion, partially related to the fight against corruption. I think that we have been able to finalise (not on our own, but in cooperation with our partners and colleagues under the auspices of the OECD) the basic principles for the development of global tax system. No one has been able to do it over the last century. So, it is a very important component of our work.

“We have prepared the so-called “St Petersburg Action Plan” for the development of global economy and creation of new jobs. We have reached an agreement on some other issues, such as the fight against corruption and actions to eliminate tax havens. There is a wide range of measures to be taken. Of course, we will discuss the issues of global trade and global finance and will deem the summit to be a success if all documents prepared and agreed in advance are adopted.”



SOURCE: http://eng.news.kremlin.ru/news/5935



Putin's economic philosophy of low taxes, low debt, real privatization, and decentralization is evident in both word and deed. On the dangers of government centralization, Putin has stated:

—In the 20th century, the Soviet Union made the state's role absolute. In the long run, this made the Soviet economy totally uncompetitive. This lesson cost us dearly. I am sure nobody wants to see it repeated." (5)
On budget deficits:

—The unjustified swelling of the budgetary deficit and the accumulation of public debts are just as destructive as adventurous stock-jobbing." (6)

On the criminal folly of America's (Fed's) ceaseless money printing:

—Look at their (America's) trade balance, their debt, and budget. They turn on the printing press and flood the whole world with government bonds. There is no way we will act this way.... We don't have the luxury of such hooliganism. (7)

CHRISTIANITY and RELIGION

"Orthodox Christianity has always played a special role in shaping our statehood, our culture, our morals. The Church may be separate from the State. But in the soul and history of our people, it is all together. It always has been and always will be."



"Putin inherited a ransacked and bewildered country, with a poor and demoralized people, and he started to do what was possible, a slow and gradual restoration. These efforts were not noticed, nor appreciated, immediately. In any case, one is hard-pressed to find examples in history when steps by one country to restore its strength were met favorably by other governments."



– Alexander Solzenitsen (Interview with Der Spiegel)

SOURCE: http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/spiegel-interview-with-alexander-solzhenitsyn-i-am-not-afraid-of-death-a-496003-3.html



PUTIN: You know I think every person should have some faith inside, in his or her heart. What matters is not an external display of this faith, but the inner state of the soul.

When I was several months old, my mother and a woman who lived in the same communal flat took me to a church and baptised me secretly from my father who was a member of the Communist Party. That was my first visit to a church of which, as you may guess, I have dim memories.

We live in difficult times, sadly. Be it on the international stage or in our spiritual and moral lives, there are many, many problems that we must overcome. But we can succeed in this only if we follow the ideas that St Sergius of Radonezh formulated. The Patriarch and I recalled his words earlier today, his appeal for unity and love. He said that only in unity and love can we find salvation.

I think the world is becoming ever more complicated. Orthodoxy has its own moral and ethical values, but they are very close to the moral and ethical values of other faiths and religions. It seems to me that although much divides us in the teachings of our different faiths, we have a great amount in common when it comes to the moral and ethical side of life.

I think that we can take everything good and positive that unites us and use it as a foundation for moving forward with confidence. I think we can say with full justification that in this we have not just the support of the overwhelming majority of people where Orthodoxy is the main religion, but that people in many other countries also share our view about the primacy of traditional moral and ethical values.



HOMOSEXUALITY

We do not have any harassment on a sexual basis. Russia does not have any laws punishing sexual minorities for their… for their what?

REPLY: For their orientation.

VLADIMIR PUTIN: For their orientation, right. So there is nothing to worry about here.

We have passed a law that forbids propaganda to minors. But I will tell you again: there is a serious population problem in your nation, in all European nations and in Russia – a demographic problem. The birth rates are low, the Europeans are dying out; do you understand that or not?

Same-sex marriages do not produce children. Do you want to survive on account of immigrants? You don't like immigrants either, because society cannot take in such a large number of immigrants. Your choice is the same as in many other nations: recognising same-sex marriages, the right to adopt, and so on. But allow us to make our own choice, as we see fit for our own nation.

Some people say Pyotr Tchaikovsky was homosexual, but we do like him, although for a different reason. He was a great musician and all of us love the music he composed.

"Same-sex marriages do not produce children."

GAY RIGHTS

January 18, 2014

President Vladimir Putin, (center, below) meets with the volunteers taking part in preparing and holding the 22nd Winter Olympic Games and 11th Winter Paralympic Games in Sochi. (RIA Novosti/Aleksey Nikolskyi)

President Vladimir Putin explained to Sochi-2014 Olympic Games volunteers the difference between the ban on gay propaganda among underage minors in Russia and criminal prosecution of homosexuals in some countries.

“There is no ban for homosexual relations in Russia, yet propaganda of homosexuality among minors – and pedophilia in particular – are prohibited,” Putin said during a Q&A session with volunteers at the Sochi Winter Olympics.

The president stressed that a ban on certain kind of relations and an interdiction on propaganda of such relations are “totally different things.”

“We neither disallow anything [homosexual] nor bust anybody [who’s gay], we have no criminal liability for such relations – as opposed to many other countries of the world,” the president emphasized.

“So you can feel calm and relaxed – but leave the children alone, please,” Putin demanded, recalling that in some countries the issue of legalizing pedophilia has been discussed openly.



“We’re not going to take up that lead towards unknown consequences like weak-willed underlings,” the Russian president stated. “We have our own traditions and our own culture. We treat with respect all of our partners and we anticipate that our traditions and culture are respected.”

The so-called “gay propaganda” law introduces fines for propaganda of non-traditional sex relations to minors, including in the media, on the internet and via viral adverts. The law stipulates fines for giving children propaganda about homosexuality.

Earlier in January, a group of 27 Nobel laureates wrote an open letter to President Putin urging him to repeal the so-called “gay propaganda law” as it “inhibits the freedom of local and foreign” LGBT communities.

But the International Olympic Committee says that Russia’s legislation doesn't violate the Olympic movement’s rules.

Moreover, on Friday a senior Italian member of the International Olympic Committee has urged “not to let politics interfere with the Olympics” and slammed the US for its decision to include openly gay athletes in its official Sochi delegation just to “demonstrate” that in their country gay rights have been established.

Army of international volunteers

Once a contest for volunteer positions of the Sochi-2014 Winter Olympics was announced, nearly 200,000 applications were filed from all regions of Russia and nearly 60 countries.

As a result, 25,000 young people were chosen to work at the Sochi Olympics as volunteers. This makes up over 35 percent of all the personnel at the Games.

“We rely on you very much. Volunteers create the atmosphere of the Games,” Putin told the volunteers in the Sochi’s Krasnaya Polyana winter sports center. He added that the festive atmosphere at the sporting event and the holiday spirit of sportsmen and guests greatly depends on the volunteers.

“A sports tournament is a festival. Sporting competitions are always associated with emotions, with the inner turmoil of its participants, which one way or another is projected on staff and on you. You need to be aware of this, have a good sense of humor to balance all this within yourself and your soul, to show externally only positive emotions,” the president said.

SOURCE: http://rt.com/news/putin-sochi-2014-volunteers-817/

“Many Euro-Atlantic countries have moved away from their roots, including Christian values. Policies are being pursued that place on the same level a multi-child family and a same-sex partnership, a faith in God and a belief in Satan. This is the path to degradation.”



http://www.vice.com/read/heres-the-first-look-at-the-new-satanic-monument-being-built-for-oklahomas-statehouse

“Russian law now mandates that all school children receive Moral Education training. The genius of this program is that the parents across multi-ethnic Russia are given a choice as to how to fulfill the requirement. The Moral Education requirement may be completed under the traditional instruction of Orthodox Christianity, or a Jewish rabbi, or a Muslim Cleric, or a Buddhist Priest. For the secularly inclined, a Secular Ethics curriculum is also available. So, whether Christian, Jew, Muslim, Buddhist, Agnostic, or Atheist, the child will be required to learn the timeless universal basics of moral conduct common to all faiths.” (15)

JOHN McCAIN

Mr McCain's tweet read: "Dear Vlad, The Arab Spring is coming to a neighbourhood near you."

Mr Putin turned stony faced when asked about the tweet on his annual televised phone-in.

"Mr McCain fought in Vietnam. I think that he has enough blood of peaceful citizens on his hands. It must be impossible for him to live without these disgusting scenes anymore.

"Mr McCain was captured and they kept him not just in prison, but in a pit for several years," he said. "Anyone [in his place] would go nuts."

DICTATORSHIPS



"History proves that all dictatorships, all authoritarian forms of government are transient. Only democratic systems are not transient. Whatever the shortcomings, mankind has not devised anything superior."

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin.html#PAhDMGC0E1eWcGG5.99

DIPLOMACY



"The ability to compromise is not a diplomatic politeness toward a partner but rather taking into account and respecting your partner's legitimate interests."

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin.html#PAhDMGC0E1eWcGG5.99

JUDO



''Judo teaches self-control, the ability to feel the moment, to see the opponent's strengths and weaknesses, to strive for the best results. I am sure you will agree that these are essential abilities and skills for any politician.''

HUMAN RIGHTS

"No references to the need to fight terror can be an argument for restricting human rights."

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin_2.html#JkByUveTlPM3Wekk.99

SUPER POWERS

"I would prefer to abandon the terminology of the past. 'Superpower' is something which we used during the cold war time. Why use it now?"

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin_2.html#JkByUveTlPM3Wekk.99

DEFICITS



The unjustified swelling of the budgetary deficit and the accumulation of public debts are just as destructive as adventurous stock-jobbing.

SOURCE: http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/v/vladimir_putin_2.html#JkByUveTlPM3Wekk.99

Promoting Confrontation With Russia

By Stephen Lendman
8-18-14

Washington's rage for war may end up targeting Russia next. Major media propaganda and disinformation seem inexorably heading in this direction.

Madness explains what's happening. Truth is systematically buried. It's turned on its head. Big Lies, distortions and deception substitute.

Western readers and viewers get a daily diet of outrageous managed news misinformation. America's so-called MSM are worst of all.

From The New York Times to Fox News, a systematic drumbeat of anti-Russian propaganda drowns out real news, information and analysis.

Winston Churchill once said "(a) lie gets halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on."

Today it circulates instantly. Joseph Goebbels once said "(i)f you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it."

He called truth "the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

Corporate media giants, so-called US public broadcasting and radio, Britain's BBC, Qatar's Al Jazeera, and similar operations regurgitate, hype, and proliferate state-sponsored lies, misinformation, distortions and deception.

The bigger the lie, the more often it's featured and repeated ad nauseam. Russia-bashing is outrageous. It substitutes for real news, information and analysis.

Readers and viewers are carpet-bombed with a daily drumbeat of misinformation. It doesn't rise to the level of bad fiction.

It's ideologically driven. It's one-sidedly biased. It's over-the-top rubbish. It's gross hypocrisy.

It turns heroes into villains. It blames victims for perpetrator crimes. It justifies the unjustifiable.

It spurns peace and conflict resolution. It heads inexorably toward East/West confrontation. It risks global war.

MSM culprits play major roles in influencing public opinion. Propaganda wars precede hot ones.

Deception, popular fiction and Big Lies launch them. Intense Russia bashing risks international peace, stability and security.

Washington's rage for war is humanity's greatest threat. Its permanent war policy deplores peace and stability.

Presidents wage wars at their discretion. Rule of law principles don't matter. Imagine risking conflict with Russia.

Imagine promoting it irresponsibly. Imagine a worst case scenario. Imagine risking humanity's survival.

Putin bashing never quits. It's relentless. The most outrageous Big Lies repeat ad nauseam. Truth is systematically buried.

Putin defends Russian sovereignty. He opposes US imperial lawlessness. Washington considers him public enemy number one. World peace hangs in the balance.

The New York Times suggests Russian humanitarian aid may be more a Trojan horse than a gift one.

Clearly it's the latter. Russia would have everything to lose and nothing to gain by trying to deliver arms and munitions to beleaguered Southeastern Ukrainians instead of promised humanitarian aid.

Don't expect The Times and other MSM members to explain. Instead, they regurgitate Kiev misinformation about covertly supplying Southeastern Ukrainian freedom fighters "men and weapons even if Moscow denies the charge."

A 280 truck convoy of desperately needed aid remains halted on Ukraine's border. Ukrainian officials began inspecting it.

It will take days or longer for completion. Delay advantages Kiev. Its terror war on civilians continues.

Around 70 or more lives are lost daily. Human misery is extreme. Lugansk and Donetsk have no electricity or water. Medicines and fuel are running out.

Food is in short supply. Heavy shelling continues. Civilian neighborhoods are targeted. Conditions are dire. Human misery worsens daily.

"Washington bears full responsibility for Ukrainian crisis conditions. Rogue EU partners share it."

The Times and other MSM contributors blame victims for Kiev crimes. Washington supports them unequivocally.

On August 13, Vice President Joe Biden told Ukraine's illegitimate president Petro Poroshenko that Washington "would continue working with its international partners to press Russia to de-escalate the crisis, and end all support, arming, and financing of the separatists."

The NYT and other media scoundrels repeated the Big Lie and others like it. Washington's role in replacing Ukraine's democratically elected government with neo-Nazi fascists is entirely ignored.

So is explaining Kiev's war without mercy against its own Southeastern citizens. Murdering them in cold blood continues.

White phosphorus able to burn flesh to the bone and perhaps other illegal terror weapons are used.

Washington, its rogue Western allies and media scoundrels turn a blind eye to atrocities too grave to ignore.

Kiev fascists take full advantage. They're free to commit mass murder and destruction with impunity.

Desperately needed humanitarian aid is blocked. Preventing it is lawless collective punishment.

In collusion with Washington, a provocative EU statement turned truth on its head.

It called on Russia "to put an immediate stop to any form of border hostilities, in particular to the flow

of arms, military advisors and armed personnel into the conflict region and to withdraw its forces from the border."

Washington bears full responsibility for Ukrainian crisis conditions. Rogue EU partners share it.

Ordinary Ukrainians suffer most. Don't expect *The New York Times* and other media scoundrels to explain.

On August 16, *Foreign Policy* headlined "Putin's New Clothes," saying:

"Russia's president is nakedly invading Ukraine. Why won't anybody say anything?"

Putin faced these outrageous charges many times before. He's gone all-out for peaceful conflict resolution.

He's shown remarkable restraint in doing so. He shames his Western counterparts. He's a master chess player. He's a world class leader.

You'd never know from the merciless bashing he takes. Big Fat Lies substitute for truth, all of it, and nothing else.

Foreign Policy repeated the fiction about a column of Russian APCs and tanks entering Ukraine.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen outrageously called it an "invasion."

Ukraine's oligarch president Petro Poroshenko said it was confronted and destroyed.

He provided no evidence proving what Russia's Defense Ministry called either a "phantom" or Ukrainian forces mistakenly at war with itself.

Foreign Policy invented its own truths. Real ones don't matter.

It outrageously accused Russia of "nakedly dispatch(ing) columns of armored vehicles into Ukraine, and stag(ing) a piece of pseudo-humanitarian theater to legitimate a more open form of warfare."

Imagine it by not crossing Ukraine's border. Without firing a shot. With food, clean water, sleeping bags and blankets, as well as medicines, medical supplies, and other vital aid.

Imagine countering Kiev atrocities with kindness. Imagine calling delivering humanitarian aid a crime.

Imagine depriving desperate people of vital aid to stay alive. Imagine Washington's dirty hands covertly orchestrating the worst of what's ongoing.

Imagine media scoundrel complicity by failing to report what demands headlines. Imagine coverup and denial of appalling high crimes against peace.

On August 16, the Wall Street Journal headlined "Some Realism on Russia," saying:

Ukraine's Poroshenko claims a Russian invasion could happen any day.

Journal editors repeated the Big Lie about "Putin's dreams of restoring Greater Russia."

"Imagine countering Kiev atrocities with kindness. Imagine calling delivering humanitarian aid a crime."

Not a shred of evidence suggests it. He's been Russia's president from May 2000 to May 2008 and since May 2012.

In over 10 years as head of state, he did nothing to expand Russia's borders. He accommodated near

Crimean unanimity to be part of Russia again. He acted responsibly doing so.

He didn't invade. He deplores wars and violence. He supports peace and stability.

He believes nation-state sovereignty is inviolable. He opposes interfering in the internal affairs of other nations.

He respects rule of law principles. He deplores Washington's imperial agenda. That puts him at odds with Obama and rogue elements around him.

Journal editors accused Obama of letting his "adversaries advance at minimal cost or resistance."

With his multiple direct and proxy wars raging, suggesting he's soft rings hollow.

Not hardline enough, say Journal editors. Perhaps they favor hot war with Russia and humanity next.

Perhaps they prefer destroying humanity to save it. Confronting Russia belligerently risks what no rational leader would dare.

Yet events seem headed inexorably for trouble. Cool heads are absent when most needed. Will humanity survive the onslaught?

A Final Comment

Stanley Kramer's 1959 apocalyptic film "On the Beach" is must viewing. It's about nuclear radiation destroying life on earth following WW III.

The film stars Gregory Peck as US submarine commander Dwight Lionel Towers. Ava Gardner is his love interest.

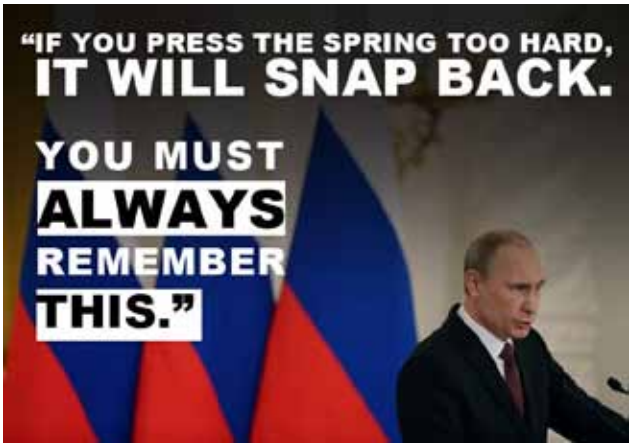
Fred Astaire is Australian scientist Julian Osborn. He commits suicide to avoid the agony of radiation poisoning.

The final scene is chilling. Viewers won't ever forget. Earlier Melbourne streets showed normal life.

The end shows them empty, devoid of life and windblown. A church banner ironically reads: "There is Still Time…Brother."

No longer. Radiation poisoning is unforgiving. It has final say. Kramer's film explains the madness of nuclear war.
If waged, there's no coming back. No second chance. No salvation from slow painful death worldwide.

If that's not reason enough for peace and good will, what is?



Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

Dutch Intellectuals Apologize to Putin for Lies on MH17, Syria, Ukraine... 27 August 2014

A letter sent by a prominent Dutch Professor to Russian president Vladimir Putin has attracted much media attention in Europe. The letter was written by Professor Cees Hamelink and signed by dozens of Dutch intellectuals and professors. Below is the letter in its entirety.

Dear Mr. President Putin,

Please accept our apologies on behalf of a great many people here in the Netherlands for our Government and our Media. The facts concerning MH17 are twisted to defame you and your country.

We are powerless onlookers, as we witness how the Western Nations, led by the United States, accuse Russia of crimes they commit themselves more than anybody else. We reject the double standards that are used for Russia and the West. In our societies, sufficient evidence is required for a conviction. The way you and your Nation are convicted for 'crimes' without evidence, is ruthless and despicable.

You have saved us from a conflict in Syria that could have escalated into a World War. The mass killing of innocent Syrian civilians through gassing by 'Al Qaeda' terrorists, trained and armed by the US and paid for by Saudi Arabia, was blamed on Assad. In doing so, the West hoped public opinion would turn against Assad, paving the way for an attack on Syria.

Not long after this, Western forces have built up, trained and armed an 'opposition' in the Ukraine, to prepare a coup against the legitimate Government in Kiev. The *putsch*ists taking over were quickly recognized by Western Governments. They were provided with loans from our tax money to prop their new Government up.

The people of the Crimea did not agree with this and showed this with peaceful demonstrations. Anonymous snipers and violence by Ukrainian troops turned these demonstrations into demands for independence from Kiev. Whether you support these separatist movements is immaterial, considering the blatant imperialism of the West.

Russia is wrongly accused, without evidence or investigation, of delivering the weapons systems that allegedly brought down MH17. For this reason Western Governments claim they have a right to economically pressure Russia.

We, awake citizens of the West, who see the lies and machinations of our Governments, wish to offer you our apologies for what is done in our name.

It's unfortunately true, that our media have lost all independence and are just mouthpieces for the Powers that Be. Because of this, Western people tend to have a warped view of reality and are unable to hold their politicians to account.

Our hopes are focused on your wisdom. We want Peace. We see that Western Governments do not serve the people but are working towards a New World Order. The destruction of sovereign nations and the killing of millions of innocent people is, seemingly, a price worth paying for them, to achieve this goal.

We, the people of the Netherlands, want Peace and Justice, also for and with Russia.
We hope to make clear that the Dutch Government speaks for itself only. We pray our efforts will help to diffuse the rising tensions between our Nations.

Sincerely,

Professor Cees Hamelink

http://macedoniaonline.eu/content/view/25981/53/

MH 17



Wreckage of Malaysian Airline Flight # MH17, showing the bullet holes from Ukrainian Air Force Sukhoi fighter jets – a "false flag" event blamed on Russia and the "separatists".

Former US congressman Ron Paul says the US government is likely hiding the truth about the crash of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 in Ukraine.

"The US government has grown strangely quite {sic} on the accusation that it was Russia or her allies that brought down the Malaysian airliner with a buck anti-aircraft missile sic," he wrote on his news website Voices of Liberty on August 7.

The former Republican presidential candidate made the comments after Washington accused Moscow of shooting down the aircraft, killing all 298 people on board. The Kremlin, however, denied the allegation.

"The little that we have heard from US intelligence is that it has no evidence that Russia was involved. Yet the war propaganda were successful in convincing the American public that it was all Russia's fault," Paul said.

"It's hard to believe that the US, with all of its spy satellites available for monitoring everything in Ukraine that precise proof of who did what and when is not available," he added.

"When evidence contradicts our government's accusations, the evidence is never revealed to the public—for national security reasons, of course. Some independent sources claim that the crash site revealed evidence that bullet holes may have come from a fighter jet. If true, it would implicate Western Ukraine."

"Questions do remain regarding the serious international incident," Paul wrote. "Too bad we can't count on our government to just tell us the truth and show us the evidence. I'm convinced that it knows a lot more than it's telling us."



Luhansk residents after an artillery strike

SOURCE: rt.com/usa/179284-ron-paul-mh17-ukraine/

Moscow Outlaws Monsanto. "Russia puts GMO Genie back in the Bottle"

Ed note: Not only has Putin taken on the oligarchs, the international banksters, and the American and UK governments, he has begun steps to outlaw dangerous genetically modified organisms. For that he has earned the enmity of Monsanto and the respect of his fellow citizens.

Russia has some of the most precious uncontaminated top soil on the planet and if it is rigorously controlled to stay GMO-free and free from chemicals its productivity would increase as Europe declines, geopolitical analyst William Engdahl told RT.

Russian PMs have pondered a draft bill outlawing GMOs. A draft bill submitted to the Russian parliament likens GMO production and distribution to terrorism. After entering the World Trade Organization, Russia was expected to allow GM food production and distribution within its market.

However, in March Russia's President Putin said the country would stay GM-free without violating its obligations to the WTO.

SOURCE: http://www.globalresearch.ca/moscow-outlaws-monsanto-russia-puts-gmo-genie-back-in-the-bottle/5382971



PUSSY RIOT

Source: www.therealhistorychannel.org

Anti-Putin media propaganda began on a small scale as far back as 2004, ramping up to a steady drum beat by 2012, and reaching the level of mass hysteria by 2014. The first major media offensive surrounded the 2012 case of a degenerate “Punk Band” known as “Pussy Riot”; named after the vulgar term for a certain part of the female anatomy, not our furry little feline friends.

The girls, we were told, were arrested merely for entering a Moscow church and singing a “Punk Prayer” to protest Putin. After being handed a 2 year jail sentence, the “International Community” (bow your head in solemn reverence as you speak those words) exploded in self righteous indignation. Singing from the same hymn book, these 10,000 or so eggheads based in New York, DC, Hollywood, London, Paris, Brussels & Berlin all decreed that Putin was a paranoid “tyrant” who had orchestrated the harsh sentence against the harmless feminist “artists”. A rallying cry for this phony cause celeb soon emerged, —“Free Pussy Riot!” The affair grew into a real public relations disaster for Russia.

International media blitz against Putin: New York – Paris - Berlin

But a few essential details were deliberately omitted from the popular narrative. Pussy Riot was not actually a “band”. The girls were just a group of NGO financed agitators who would don bright colored ski masks while strumming on electric guitars which they knew not how to play. Their screaming “songs” consisted of loud obscenities calling for things like “gay rights”, the



downfall of Putin, and for Russian housewives to stick their vacuum cleaner hoses up their vaginas.

Pussy Riot is an offshoot of an NGO funded Anarchist “art collective” known as VOINA, whose members (including Nadezhda Tolokonnikova of Pussy Riot – whose own parents threw her out!) had previously engaged in such outrageous “artistic” stunts as having a group sex session in a public museum and painting an image of a huge penis on a draw bridge (which later — erected).

Another “art project” involved the filming of a female member shoving a chicken carcass into her vagina and walking out of the market as the refrigerated creature’s legs dangled out from her canal like a breech birth. (See pic below)

The vandals of VOINA have also been known to spray urine filled water guns, and throw urine filled balloons, at police officers (5), disrupt court proceedings and smash up police cars. (6) Upon deliberately provoking their own arrests, VOINA cult members will scream about “police brutality” and then post online photos and videos of their “human rights” being violated by “Putin’s thugs”. The Western Yellow Press will then dutifully show the out-of-context images to their horrified worshippers (readers/viewers). That’s how the NGO “protester” game is played!

VOINA – Pussy Riot are NGO Weapons of Mass Agitation. Clockwise from left-right:

1: Chicken in vagina 2: Nadezhda of Pussy Riot covers her naked body with large roaches 3: A vandalized "erecting" draw bridge 4: Public group sex (late pregnant Nadezhda doing "doggie") – 5: Nadezhda and friends storm court proceedings 6: VOINA vandals overturn a police car.

Contrary to the scripted image of a repressive Russia, members of VOINA and Pussy Riot endured only brief arrests and fines, at worst. In spite of being warned to stay away from the cathedrals, the Pussy Riot "band" continued to push the Moscow police. On February 21, 2012, members of the gang invaded Moscow's Cathedral of Christ the Savior. The reader will recall the story of the Stalin-Kaganovich dynamite destruction of this historic Grand Cathedral in 1931. During the 1990s, it was rebuilt to the close specifications of its original glory. This new Cathedral holds special religious, cultural and historic meaning for Russian faithful. It was attacked for this very reason.

As horrified worshippers and priests looked on, a flash mob of as many as a dozen VOINA radicals stormed the Christ Cathedral. Four of these deranged tools of the Globalist NGOs (the Pussy Riot girls) then took to the alter itself. They mocked the stunned worshippers by kneeling and crossing themselves. As supporting members blasted their music from the side, the "singers" then belted out an obscene "protest prayer" aimed at Putin and Church Patriarch Kirill (the Russian Church's version of the Pope). They screamed that Putin is "Shit! Shit! The Lord's shit". Patriarch Kirill was denounced as a "bitch" and Mother Mary was urged to "become a feminist." (7)

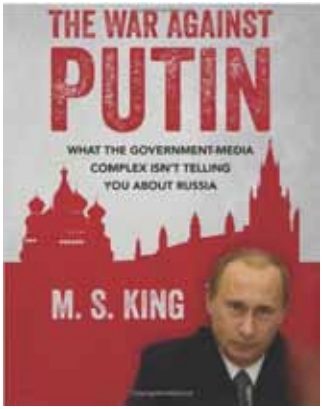
Now the patient Russians had tolerated enough! The lead "singers" were finally arrested and charged by the local authorities (not by Putin!), with "hooliganism motivated by religious hatred" The arrest and subsequent trial drew international attention and massive criticism. Not only did the feminist radicals not show an ounce of remorse, but they laughed and mocked the court itself throughout the entire trial. The deranged and defiant "activists" continued laughing as Judge Marina Syrova handed down her sentence! (8) It was evident that the girls (and their handlers), actually wanted a prison sentence. It would be great anti-Putin propaganda for the Globalists; and certain fame and fortune for the celebrity "heroines" when they get out (in December 2013).

Indeed, only 3 months after Pussy Riot's release, one of America's most artificially puffed-up pseudo "journalists" – the oh-so-serious and ever so "thought provoking" Charlie Rose of PBS fame – debased himself by interviewing two of the deranged subversives at a public forum held in New York in April of 2014. (9) On bended knee and with baited breath, the duplicitous charlatan lobbed one sugar-coated soft ball after another to the "courageous" degenerates who dared to defy the "tyrant" Putin.

Not once did the pious fawning sophist think to ask the "ladies" about any of the key data points we have just reviewed. This is not surprising. You see, chatty Charlie is not only a long time member of the Putin-hating Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), but he also belongs to the super exclusive Tri-Lateral Commission; an elite Globalist "study group" founded by David Rockefeller and Zbig Brzezinski in 1973.



International media blitz against Putin: New York – Paris - Berlin



"What could Vladimir Putin possibly have done to merit such disrespect and enmity from America's ruling class? Has Russia bombed sovereign nations into submission?

"No; that was the US that did that (Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya). Has Russia set up torture camps for prisoners of war? No; that was the US that did that (Guantanamo, Abu Graib) Has Russia killed women, elderly and children with Predator Drones? No; that was the US that did that (Pakistan, Yemen, Sudan, Somalia) Has Russia used subversion to foment "spontaneous" protests and internal coups of foreign governments? No; that was the US that did that (Georgia, Ukraine (twice!), Egypt, Tunisia and many more) Is Russia threatening to attack any other country? No; that is the US doing that (N. Korea, Iran, Lebanon, Syria)." – Michael King (www.tomatobubble.com)

What Vladimir Putin has done to earn the hatred of his "Western partners" has been to rebuild Russia from the sorry state it was in after Yeltsin allowed the country to be raped ("privatised") by Western banks and other interests; he has become increasingly independent in his foreign policy; he has arrested the oligarchs who were bleeding Russia dry; he has had the nerve to stop a US instigated war or two (Syria and Ukraine); he has not flinched from its insane "sanctions" policy or hit back in kind to US-inspired provocations, which were designed to bring about a major war. He has also made it clear to the world that for now, at least, there was one island of sanity that was still functional. – Ed.

FOR MORE, SEE: WORLD WAR 3 FOR DUMMIES

A Step-by-Step Guide to Understanding the Present World Situation

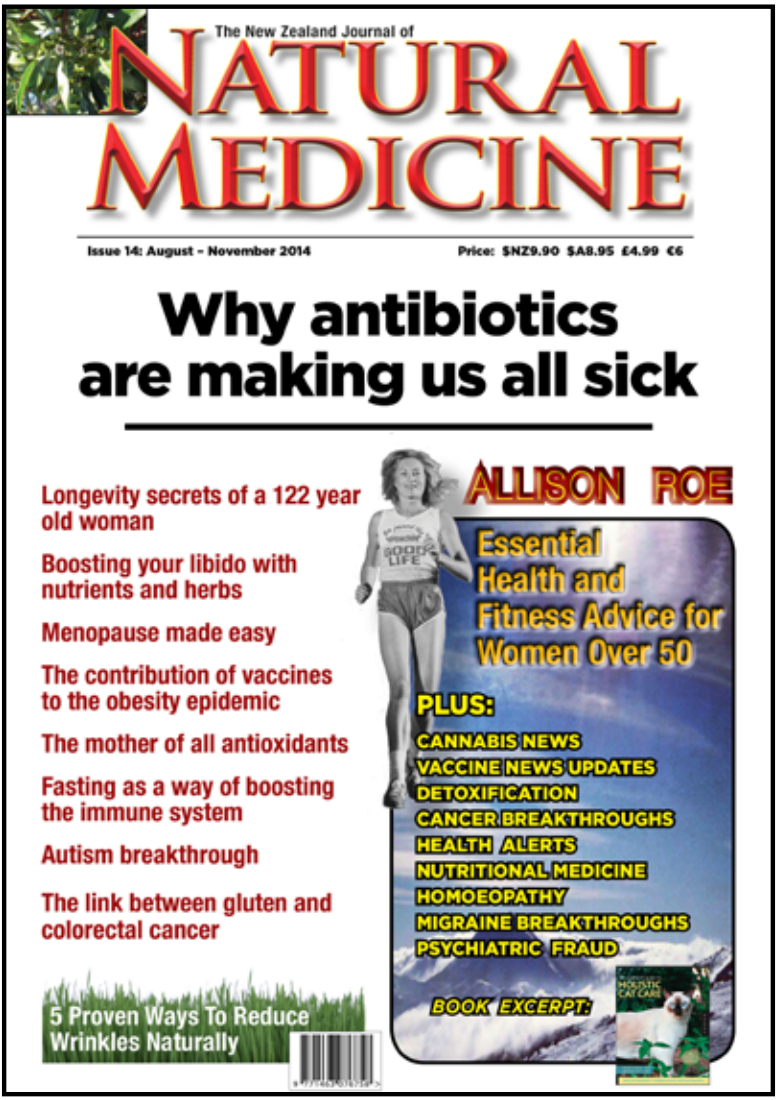
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AND: THE TALENTED MR PUTIN

http://www.tomatobubble.com/putin_book.html

At last: A health magazine that tells the whole truth



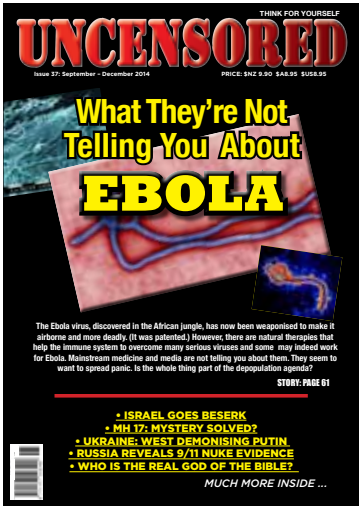
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