

# Putin activates the nuclear doctrine: Referendum in Donetsk-Lugansk September 23-27 - Kherson-Zaporizhzhia follow - End of the "special operation"

## Definitive dismemberment of Ukraine

[09/20/2022 - 15:58](#)

The developments in Ukraine are fast-paced as one province after another under Russian control announces their intention to hold referendums on joining Russia. Ukraine is permanently disintegrating.

The purpose is for Moscow to bring Ukraine to completion. Any attempted Ukrainian counter-attack against Russian-now-territories will automatically activate the entire Russian Army and now there will be mobilization...

The "special military operation" will officially end.

At the same time, the inclusion of these regions in Russia will ALSO activate the nuclear doctrine of strategic deterrence, as the prediction of B. Putin that in the event of an attack against Russian territory will be activated, the defense will be activated, including the use of nuclear weapons...

These developments come to overturn the dynamics that had formed on the battlefield after the territorial gains that the Ukrainian armed forces had obtained with their counterattack.

Commenting on the developments, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said: *"The people of Donbas want to determine their own destiny."*

## Referendums in Donbas on September 23-27

As reported by the Russian news agency Tass, the authorities of the Donetsk People's Republic have announced that the referendum will take place between September 23 and 27, with the head of the Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, asking the President of Russia, V. Putin, to accept Donetsk as Russian territory, if the result of the referendum is positive in favor of the union.

In fact, it is not excluded that a referendum will be held in Lugansk on the same date, as it became known that the two republics will coordinate their movements for the holding of the referendums.

*"The referendum on the entry of the Lugansk People's Republic into the Russian Federation as a subject of the Russian Federation will be held from September 23 to 27,"* said a post by the chairman of the People's Republic Council, Denis Miroshnichenko.

*"Donbas is returning home. I consider the bill timely. I ask the Members to support it. The dates of the referendum are September 23-27,"* said Denis Pushilin, head of the Donetsk People's Republic.

Rodion Miroshnik, the ambassador of the Lugansk People's Republic in Russia, emphasized for his part that the Lugansk and Donetsk People's Republics are coordinating their steps to hold referendums on the integration of these regions into Russia

*"The heads of the Luhansk and Donetsk People's Republics have reached an agreement to coordinate and synchronize their efforts to prepare for referendums, which means that the process has effectively begun."*

*Now the process is being formalized as work is underway to identify all the mechanisms that should be used to organize the vote,"* Miroshnik asserted.

As he said, these preparations for the process will focus on the need to give citizens the opportunity to express their will in a transparent atmosphere.

He even mentioned that experts with vast experience in organizing such referendums will participate in the preparations.

*"There are different mechanisms for holding referendums in different parts of the world that depend on the circumstances, so it's about how we structure the process,"* Miroshnik said.

However, the chairman of the Donetsk City Council (DRP), Alexander Kofman, speaking to the Rossiya-24 TV channel, argued that November 4 is the best date to hold a referendum in the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR) on the issue of accession to Russia.

*"I really like the symbolism of November 4 as National Unity Day.*

*It seems to me that a referendum held today will clearly demonstrate the popular unity of the Donbas, the liberated regions of Ukraine - the Kherson and Zaporizhia regions - and Russia,"* said Alexander Kofman.

*"Given the hardships that Ukraine has condemned us to, the ongoing shelling and so on, certainly, this vote will take several days.*

*It won't be held in one day,"* Kofman argued, adding that he was awaiting a response from Donetsk leader Denis Pushilin to his appeal for a referendum on joining Russia.

### **Lugansk: Joining Russia will help our army!**

Rodion Miroshnik stressed that the region's accession to Russia will take the region's military forces to a new level in terms of supply and logistics.

*"Moving the border line will also affect the supply chain.*

*Now it is important to strengthen our military units.*

*First of all, let's not divide them into reservists, militia, Russian forces...*

*They all fight the same way, they are in the same formations.*

*And they are fighting the same enemy.*

*So why should they be so divided?"* asked Miroshnik, who argued that *"our army must be properly equipped and supplied"*, which can be done by Russia, which is a large, economically and militarily powerful state.

It is noted that yesterday, Monday 19/9, the municipal council of the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) called on the head of the Republic, Leonid Pasechnik, to immediately organize a referendum on joining Russia.

*"The City Council of the Lugansk People's Republic takes the initiative to hold a referendum on the immediate accession of the Lugansk People's Republic to Russia."*

### **N. Medvedev: Referendums in Donbass are necessary**

Today's statements by N. Medvedev, former president of Russia and current vice-president of the Security Council, may be a harbinger of the developments.

*"The referendums in Donbass are vital not only for the systematic protection of the residents of the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and other liberated territories, but also for the restoration of historical justice,"* Medvedev said in a Telegram message.

As he said, after the accession of the Donbas Republics to Russia, the geopolitical changes will be irreversible.

*"After the referendums are held and the new regions join Russia, geopolitical changes will take on an irreversible character," Medvedev argued, who argued that Russia's development will also change completely.*

*"Trespassing on the territory of Russia is a crime that allows us to use all defense forces," Medvedev said, pointing out that after the amendment of the Russian Constitution, no future leader of Russia will be able to overturn the decision to join his republics. Donbas in Russia.*

### **Referendum in Kherson as well**

*The province of Kherson will hold a referendum on joining Russia,* as announced by Vladimir Saldo, head of the military-political administration that Moscow has imposed on the region, who accepted the proposal made earlier today by the municipal council of the region.

*"Having taken into account the appeals of public organizations and residents of the region, the leadership of the administration of the Kherson Region decided to hold a referendum on the inclusion of the Kherson Region into the Russian Federation.*

*I am sure that the leadership of the Russian Federation will accept the results of the referendum and the Kherson region will be part of Russia, as a full subject of the unified state,"* Saldo said in a Telegram post.

Earlier, a request to hold an immediate referendum on joining Russia was also addressed by the city council of Kherson to the head of the region.

The council expresses its confidence that the residents of the region will overwhelmingly support joining the Russian Federation.

This development was announced earlier by the deputy head of the military-civil administration imposed by Moscow in the region, Kirill Stremousov.

In his letter to the head of the military-political administration of Kherson, Volodymyr Saldo, the chairman of the municipal council of the region, Vladimir Ovcharenko, asks to proceed immediately to a referendum on joining Russia.

*"We consider it more urgent than ever to take a strong-willed decision to immediately hold a referendum on Kherson's entry into the Russian Federation.*

*We are sure that the initiative will be fully supported by the residents of the region, and joining Russia will not only be a triumph of historical justice, but will also secure the territory of the region, open new opportunities on the way to revival and restoration of the power of our land and the return to a full peaceful life" says Ovcharenko.*

### **Referendum request from Zaporizhia as well**

According to the Russian media, the residents of Zaporizhzhya are also meeting with the same request, namely the immediate holding of a referendum on union with Russia.

Specifically, it is reported that the municipal council of Zaporizhzhya residents is meeting in Melitopol with the main objective of holding an immediate referendum on joining Russia.

# 300,000 Russians Under Arms With Nukes Ready To Use: B.Putin Declares Partial Conscription In Russia

Ukraine says goodbye to 4 regions for the start...

[09/21/2022 - 09:50](#)

WarNews247



The president of Russia, B.Putin, announced a short time ago a partial mobilization in Russia, completely confirming WarNews247 for what he had been writing for months. Conscription had been in immediate Russian plans for 4 months after the tragic mistakes made in the initial planning of the Russian operation.

Clarifying Putin's announcement, Russia's Defense Minister, Sergei Shoigu, said that the recruitment concerns "only those who have previous military experience", referring to a number of approximately 300,000 reservists . As he noted, partial conscription does not concern conscripts or students of military academies.

According to reports, the governors of all Russian regions have been instructed to ensure the call for mobilization in the "amount and within the time frame" specified by the Russian Ministry of Defense.

At the same time, in his speech, B. Putin made a clear allusion to the use of nuclear weapons as, as WarNews247 noted yesterday, the "special military operation" is coming to an end. Now any attack by the Ukrainians against Russian territory can be repelled by the use of tactical nuclear weapons.

*"The West has crossed all lines." "People in historic Novorossiia do not want to live under a neo-Nazi regime... If its territorial integrity is threatened, Russia will use all means at its disposal. This is not a bluff," stressed Putin.*

*"I emphasize that this is a partial mobilization. Only those in reserve will be drafted," the Russian president clarified.*

Partial recruitment will begin today, he clarified. *"I will emphasize that Russian citizens called up as part of the military service will have all the privileges of those who serve under contract, "* the Russian president added.

During his speech, he ordered the equalization of the legal status of volunteers in the Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine with regular military personnel of the Russian Federation, essentially an absorption of Russian-speakers into the Russian armed forces.

He talked about neo-Nazis in Ukraine and claimed that NATO is conducting reconnaissance throughout southern Russia through its secret services. "The West does not want peace between Ukraine and Russia ," Putin said...

### Excerpt of Putin's speech 9/21/2022

“...Even nuclear blackmail has come into play. We are talking not only about the shelling of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear [power plant] encouraged by the West, which threatens to unleash a nuclear [catastrophe], but also about statements made by some high-ranking representatives of leading NATO countries on the possibility and admissibility of using weapons of mass destruction against Russia – nuclear weapons. I want to remind those who allow themselves [to make] such statements about that our country also has a variety of weapons of [mass] destruction and in some areas even more modern than those in NATO countries. And if the territorial integrity of our country is threatened we will without question use all the means at our disposal to protect Russia and our people. This is not a bluff. To protect our motherland, its sovereignty, and to ensure the security of our nation and the people at the liberated territories I consider it's necessary to support the Defense Ministry's and General Staff's proposals to hold partial mobilization in Russia . . . We cannot, we have no moral right to hand over our loved ones to the [Ukrainian Neo-Nazis]. We cannot fail to respond to their sincere desire to determine . . . The parliaments of Donbas People's Republics as well as civil-military administrations of Kherson and . . . have decided on holding referendums to determine the future so that people can express their will. We will do everything to ensure safe conditions to hold the referendums. We will support the decision on their future made by the residents of Donetsk and Luhansk people's Republics, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions. I reiterate, we are talking about partial mobilization, that is only citizens who are currently in the reserve will be subject . . . and above all, those who served in the armed forces and have a certain military specialty and relevant experience. Conscripts will obligatorily go through additional military [training] based on the experience of the special military operation before departing to the units

---

## **US ‘teetering on brink’ of being a party to Ukraine conflict – Lavrov**

The Russian foreign minister warned Washington its aid to Kiev is playing with nuclear fire

<https://www.rt.com/russia/563279-lavrov-newsweek-ukraine-conflict/>



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York, September 2022.

Washington is perilously close to being openly involved in the conflict in Ukraine, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in an interview with [Newsweek](#) published on Wednesday, answering a question about a possible confrontation between nuclear-armed world powers.

The US and its allies aren't seeking peace in Ukraine, but to use the country to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, said Lavrov, who was in New York for the 77th [UN General Assembly](#) session.



*“Today, Western states funnel weapons and military hardware into the neo-Nazi regime in Kiev, and train Ukraine’s armed forces. NATO and US weapons are used to fire at Russian territory bordering Ukraine, killing civilians there. The Pentagon does not hide that it’s providing Kiev with intelligence and target designations for strikes. We’ve recorded the presence of American mercenaries and advisers on the battlefield,”* Lavrov told the US magazine.

**The United States, in fact, is teetering on the brink of turning into a party to the conflict. This is to your question about the risk of a direct collision between nuclear powers.**

Russian President Vladimir Putin [warned the West](#) on Wednesday morning that Moscow would “*use all the means*” at its disposal to defend Russia, referring to statements by officials in NATO countries about using nuclear weapons against Russian troops.

The US and its allies are openly seeking to defeat Russia on the battlefield and are ready to sacrifice Ukraine to achieve their geopolitical goals, Lavrov told Newsweek.

When Moscow and Kiev almost reached an agreement in March, this turn of events “*obviously frightened the Americans and the British, so they actually forbade Ukraine to conduct further dialogue with Russia,*” the Russian diplomat said. This was presumably a reference to [revelations](#) by pro-government media in Kiev that UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson had brought such a message to Ukrainian President Vladimir Zelensky.

*“It is objectively not possible to maintain normal communication with Washington”* after the US declared “*the strategic defeat of Russia*” as its policy goal, Lavrov told the outlet.

The West left Moscow no choice but to launch a special military operation, after it created and nurtured “*a Russophobic neo-Nazi regime*” in Kiev and sent weapons into Ukraine in order to turn it into a “*springboard for containing Russia,*” the foreign minister explained.

The goals of the operation are to protect the population of Donbass, eliminate threats to Russia’s security, and the “*demilitarization and denazification of Ukraine,*” Lavrov said. “*All of them remain relevant and will be achieved, no matter how long it takes.*”

---

## Serbian leader warns of imminent global war

Aleksandar Vucic sees only escalation ahead for the West’s relations with Russia and China

<https://www.rt.com/news/563203-serbia-global-war-gloom/>



Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic

The world is approaching a major conflict unseen since 1945, Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic warned on Tuesday, after the first day of the UN General Assembly session in New York. Small countries can’t expect any good news going forward, Vucic added.

*“You see a crisis in every part of the world,”* Vucic told the Serbian state broadcaster RTS, noting that the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres made gloomy predictions in his keynote speech at the UNGA.

*“I think realistic predictions ought to be even darker,”* Vucic said. *“Our position is even worse, since the UN has been weakened and the great powers have taken over and practically destroyed the UN order over the past several decades.”*

Asked about the upcoming speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Vucic said it's not difficult to predict its general outline.

***I assume that we're leaving the phase of the special military operation and approaching a major armed conflict, and now the question becomes where is the line, and whether after a certain time – maybe a month or two, even – we will enter a great world conflict not seen since the Second World War.***

*“For all of us small [countries] who only want to be secure and provide safety to our citizens, there is no good or easy news. I expect everything going forward to involve more complicated relations between the West and Russia, but also between the West and China,”* the Serbian president added.

Vucic himself intends to address the nation next week, to inform Serbians of *“important decisions”* his government intends to make.

Serbia has been under tremendous pressure from the EU and NATO to impose sanctions against Russia and side with the West, but Vucic has persisted in maintaining neutrality while insisting that Belgrade aims to join the EU at some point in the future. Brussels has already told Belgrade that a prerequisite for that would be recognizing the breakaway province of Kosovo, however, which Vucic has [vowed](#) never to do.

Russia and China are among half the world's governments that have not recognized Kosovo, occupied by NATO in 1999 and proclaimed a state in 2008 with US backing.

# Ukraine: The CIA's 75-year-old Proxy

By [Gerald Sussman](#)

September 12, 2022

<https://covertactionmagazine.com/2022/09/12/ukraine-the-cias-75-year-old-proxy/>

*Joe Biden “is fueling the fire in the Ukraine.”*

— *Roger Waters of Pink Floyd*

It takes a musical artist to cut through the morass of propaganda to educate American mainstream media (MSM) about the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the role of the United States in instigating that conflict for its own nefarious ends.

The MSM have constructed an undiluted narrative about “Putin’s War” that disguises America’s imperialist expansion into eastern Europe. It is utterly Orwellian in its effort to project onto Russia what the U.S. and its main imperial ally, the UK (which a British journalist deemed “America’s tugboat”), have been doing non-stop since 1945—and indeed for centuries.

Looking back, the U.S. under Truman began the policy of turning enemies (Germany, Japan) into friends and friends (the important war-time alliance with the USSR) into enemies. The CIA, established in 1947, was the main clandestine instrument of this policy, working closely with the neo-Nazi Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (OUN) to carry out acts to sabotage, divide and destabilize the Soviet state.

The OUN, in particular the faction led by the German ally Stepan Bandera and his second in command, Yaroslav Stetsko, OUN-B, was a violently anti-semitic, anti-communist, and anti-Russian organization, which collaborated with the Nazi occupation and actively participated in the slaughter of millions of Poles, Ukrainian Jews, and ethnically Russian and Ukrainian communists in the region. Nonetheless, *The Washington Post* treated Stetsko as a national hero, a “lonely patriot.”



Yaroslav Stetsko with then-Vice President George H.W. Bush. [Source: [fpif.org](#)]

The OUN-German alliance in 1941 was backed by the leaders of the Ukrainian Orthodox and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic churches. The latter’s archbishop, [Andrey Sheptytsky](#), penned a pastoral letter that declared: “We greet the victorious German Army as deliverer from the enemy. We render our obedient homage to the government which has been erected. We recognize Mr. Yaroslav Stetsko as Head of State ... of the Ukraine.”

On the occasion of the German invasion of the Soviet Union, the OUN put up posters in the western Ukrainian city of Lvov that read: “Do not throw away your weapons now. Take them in your hands. Destroy the enemy....People! Know! Moscow, Poland, the Hungarians, the Jews are your enemies. Destroy them!...Glory to Ukraine! Glory to the Heroes! Glory to the Leader! [Bandera]”



Notably, this call for ethnic cleansing does not cite the Germans then occupying Ukraine, yet the fascist and neo-Nazi propagandists who are waging a war in the Donbas region today portray their forebearers as heroes for having defended Ukrainian nationalism from the Soviets *and* Germany. The Pentagon successfully pressed Congress to lift restrictions on training and providing military assistance to groups, such as the Azov Battalion, that are based on fascist or neo-Nazi ideology.



Azov Battalion fighters with NATO flag at left and Nazi flag at right. [Source: [wsws.org](https://www.wsws.org)]

As in the past, U.S. foreign policy is prepared to accommodate such sectors within its circle of allies. On December 16, 2021, a draft resolution of the UN General Assembly was listed as “Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fueling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.”

It passed by a recorded vote of 130 in favor (mainly the Third World, constituting the large majority of the world’s population), 51 abstentions (mainly the EU, Australia, New Zealand and Canada), and two opposed, the two being Ukraine and the United States. The Western European countries that Hitler conquered and occupied would not condemn present-day manifestations of Nazism and fascism.

Harry Truman, infamously declared as a senator in 1940 in response to Operation Barbarossa that “If we see that Germany is winning, we ought to help Russia and if Russia is winning we ought to help Germany and that way let them kill as many as possible.” This showed what little regard he had for the Russian and other Soviet people—which became more evident when he became president.

During his tenure in the White House, the U.S. helped rebuild the industrial capacity of Western Europe (in large part to prevent communists and socialists from winning elections), but he also launched a war on North Korea, destroying virtually every structure in the country through bombing, including incendiary and napalm weapons.

He initiated the Cold War, massively escalated the military budget, organized NATO, and used atomic weapons on civilian populations in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in large part to block the allied Soviets from gaining territory in Japan in the last days of the war.

Perhaps Truman’s most destructive initiative was the creation of the CIA, a monster that he later claimed got out of hand, telling a friend “I never would have agreed to the formulation of the Central Intelligence

Agency back in forty-seven, if I had known it would become the American Gestapo, ”though as president he supported its clandestine activities in Eastern Europe.

The immediate target was Soviet Ukraine, which the CIA hoped through its clandestine projects to “[crack apart](#)” with saboteurs behind enemy lines.

Its task was a carry-over from the World War II covert action agency, the OSS, which had worked with partisan groups resisting the Nazi occupation. In Ukraine, the U.S. simply flipped the enemy by supporting Nazi insurgent organizations fighting the Soviet Union, the country that had just saved Europe from the scourge of Hitler’s Third Reich.

The CIA’s plan, part of its “[stay behind](#)” operations in Central and Eastern Europe, was to airdrop Ukrainians from the ultra-nationalist groups, in particular OUN-B, that would involve the smuggling of weapons, the uses of covert communication transmissions, spies, commandos, banditry, assassins and sabotage.

A declassified secret CIA history shows that the Agency refused to extradite the OUN war criminal Bandera to the Soviets in order to keep the underground movement and the destabilization efforts in Ukraine intact.



Stepan Bandera [Source: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stepan_Bandera)]

Instead, two branches of the CIA, the Office of Policy Coordination (OPC) for covert operations and the Office of Special Operations (OSO) for clandestine projects for which the U.S. government provided cover, both protected the OUN and worked closely with the anti-Soviet Ukraine Insurgent Army (UPA) “for psychological warfare activities directed against Polish, Czechoslovakian, and Romanian targets bordering Ukraine.”

[OPC and OSO](#) “agree[d] that the Ukrainian organization [Ukrainian Supreme Council of Liberation], the governing body of the OUN, offers unusual opportunities for penetration of the USSR, and assisting in the development of underground movements behind the Iron Curtain.”

The CIA operation was codenamed PBCRUET-AERODYNAMIC, based on a top-secret document dated June 17, 1950.

## The OUN

The [OUN party congress in August 1939](#) called for an “ethnically uniform” state, a concept that escalated after 1941 with its commitment to a “cleansing operation against all enemies of the race.” Ukraine’s Jews, numbering about 1.5 million, were virtually annihilated by the Germans, aided by OUN’s Ukrainian Insurgent Army, the Ukrainian police, and by ordinary Ukrainian citizens. OUN was made up of a range of Ukrainian fascists, Nazis, and other extreme elements [but also included](#) Slovak Hlinka Guards, Ukrainian SS from the 14<sup>th</sup> Grenadier Waffen-SS (Galicia) Division, and mercenary German SS.

The mass murder of Poles (estimated at 100,000 to 200,000) escalated in 1943, again actively joined by the UPA. The OUN-UPA also collaborated with the Germans in rooting out thousands of Ukrainian Russians for extermination. Its [self-appointed “prime minister,”](#) Yaroslav Stetsko depicted [Russians as a barbarian, non-European race](#), descended from Mongols and Huns.

After the war, the U.S. saw no problem with working closely with Stetsko who, [in his own biography](#) (1941), wrote: “I consider Marxism to be a product of the Jewish mind, which has been applied in the Muscovite prison of peoples by the Muscovite-Asiatic people with the assistance of Jews. Moscow and Jewry are Ukraine’s greatest enemies and bearers of corruptive Bolshevik international ideas.... I

therefore support the destruction of the Jews and the expedience of bringing German methods of exterminating Jewry to Ukraine, barring their assimilation....”

[Source: [twitter.com](https://twitter.com)]

Neither his madness, nor the Nazi death camps, nor the three million Russian POWs who died in concentration camps nor the utter barbarity of the German and allied invasions changed the course of U.S. official thinking about how high-ranking Nazis and fascists could be useful to America’s war with Soviet socialism. Stetsko was given a broad welcome in Washington, where he was fêted by Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush as an esteemed leader of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations, which originally was a Nazi German formation ([noted by Stephen Dorril](#)), and permanent ABN delegate to the World Anti-Communist League.

## Rollback

By the early 1950s, [after parachuting 85 agents into Ukraine](#), three-quarters of them captured, the CIA conceded that the project was a dismal failure. This did not deter the cold warriors from using regime-change mercenaries elsewhere, including the failed Bay of Pigs a decade later. With the Ukrainian insurgent movement crushed, many of the Banderites, including Mykola Lebed, one of the founders of the OUN and a lieutenant of Bandera trained by the Gestapo in ruthless methods of torture, became émigrés.

[Lebed](#), who had served as the organization’s foreign minister and head of its notorious secret police, was described by the U.S. Army as a “well-known sadist and collaborator of the Germans.” He migrated to Munich after the war, where he played an important role in the newly formed and secretly CIA-run Radio Free Europe, the U.S.-funded propaganda organ that transmitted to Eastern Europe. RFE was joined by Radio Liberty (also run by the CIA and directed to the Soviet Union) and the Voice of America in not only broadcasting propaganda but also [for relaying one-way coded messages](#) to “stay behind” saboteurs.

[Source: [journalismisnotacrime.org](http://journalismisnotacrime.org)]

During the war, Lebed was said to have been a good pupil and favorite of the German Gestapo. Afterwards, relocated in Munich, Lebed enjoyed the patronage (as did Bandera) of Nazi intelligence officer Reinhard Gehlen, who himself had close operational relations with the CIA.



Reinhard Gehlen [Source: [ww2db.com](http://ww2db.com)]

Gehlen later became head of West German intelligence, employing the Nazis he had worked with during the war, and helping the CIA by sharing information on Eastern Europe. [When Lebed fell out with the post-war OUN-B in Germany](#), the CIA smuggled him and many other Ukrainian ultra-nationalists to the U.S.

With the endorsement of CIA Director Allen Dulles, Lebed worked in New York City (and lived in affluent Westchester County) under a false name as an anti-Soviet intelligence asset and was given citizenship. The far-right Ukrainians then and now have long been instruments of a Cold War policy. “Former members of the Ukrainian underground now in the United States,” [the CIA wrote in a top-secret 1950 document](#), “will be exploited to the fullest extent practicable.”



In the early Cold War years, there were [hundreds if not thousands of Nazis](#), including such war criminals as SS officer Otto von Bolschwing (a leading organizer of the Final Solution and an adjutant of Adolf Eichmann), brought into the U.S. from Germany, Ukraine, the Balkans, the Baltic states, and Byelorussia.



Otto von Bolschwing [Source: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_von_Bolschwing)]

Also among them was Adolf Heusinger, “[one of the many high-ranking Nazi and fascist officials](#)” who had been integrated into U.S. military and intelligence networks.” Heusinger had been Hitler’s Chief of the General Staff of the Army, and in 1961-1964 was appointed as Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, so fluid was the transition from being a high-ranking Nazi to becoming a military commander of the “Free World.”



Adolf Heusinger [Source: [wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Heusinger)]

Meanwhile, Bandera’s demand for total control of the OUN led to friction within the Germany-based fascist leadership. By 1950, the U.S. and UK were planning joint operations into Ukraine, but the CIA at that point decided to work more closely with the ZP/UHVR (foreign representation of the Ukrainian Supreme Liberation Council, the umbrella organization of all right-wing nationalist formations), while the British MI6 took on Bandera as their chief contact among the Ukrainians.

When Bandera was assassinated in 1959 after the U.S. refused to extradite him to the Soviet Union for war crimes, Stetsko took over the OUN.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the U.S. thought it at last had Russia in its grasp. Under the autocratic, vodka-driven rule of Boris Yeltsin in Russia, the U.S. was invited in to guide a neoliberal “shock therapy” program, which resulted in the complete destruction of the Russian economy.

American-style capitalism created a severe depression with massive unemployment, falling wages, loss of pensions, oligarchs taking over formerly state-owned industries, increased inequality and poverty, rising alcoholism, and a significant decline in life spans.

Although Yeltsin put up some resistance, the Clinton administration had its way in expanding NATO into Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, a violation of agreements made between George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev on not expanding the military organization “one inch” to the east. This false promise was supposed to be a concession to the Soviets for not blocking German reunification and its NATO membership.

Henceforth, this began a steady progression of NATO enlargement, which certified Ukraine as a future member and a de facto associate member and brought arms deliveries, weapons training, and coordinated war games with the Ukrainian army in anticipation of a war with Russia—along [with bank accounts](#) for cooperating Ukrainian politicians.

Vladimir Putin proved to be a far superior Russian leader, turning around the economy, reining in many of the oligarchs, and restoring confidence in the Russian state. In Ukraine, the U.S. saw an opportunity in the 2004 presidential election to pull Ukraine away from the influence of Russia.

Along with visits to the country by high-level officials, the U.S. intervened by using several other channels, including the regime-change organizations, [National Endowment for Democracy](#), USAID, Freedom House, George Soros's Open Society Institute (now Foundations), and the ever-present CIA, to block the election of Russia-leaning Viktor Yanukovich and install a pro-American neo-liberal Viktor Yushchenko as president.

With U.S. help, Yushchenko prevailed but failed miserably as president. The fire alarm went off again for the U.S. in 2010, when Yanukovich was elected president. By then, Yushchenko was fully discredited as a leader, receiving only 5.5% of the first-round vote, thereby eliminating him. The U.S. has had a hard time picking winners.

The 2013-2014 anti-government protests, which started out peacefully in Kyiv's Maidan (square), was urged on by visits to the streets by the U.S. undersecretary of state and regime change specialist, Victoria Nuland, who repeatedly met with coup plotters. Joining her were Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Chris Murphy (D-CT), who stood on a platform in the square with the neo-Nazi leader Oleh Tyahnybok to offer America's support, presumably without formal authorization, for the illegal overthrow of Yanukovich.



Then-U.S. Senator John McCain, center, speaks as Chris Murphy, Democratic senator from Connecticut, second left, and Opposition leader Oleh Tyahnybok, right, stand around him during a pro-European Union rally in Independence Square in Kyiv, Ukraine, in December 2015. [Source: [foxnews.com](https://www.foxnews.com)]

This time the CIA was more fully involved in getting rid of the Russia-leaning president and very likely helped prepare the extreme right militia groups that took part in the [sniper](#)

[shootings](#) and massacres of police and protesters in the Maidan, which forced Yanukovich to flee. *The New York Times* falsely attributed the shootings to his government. This set off resistance in the heavily Russophone Donbas region to the overthrow, which in turn was met by an assault by the Kyiv coup government and the deaths, up to 2022, of 14,000 soldiers and civilians.

In interviews with European reporters in June 2022, Petro Poroshenko, who was a regular informant at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv before he was sponsored by the U.S. to become president in 2014, said that while in office, [he signed the Minsk agreements](#) with Russia, France and Germany and agreed to a cease-fire merely as a ploy to buy time in building up the military and preparing for war. "Our goal," he said, "was to, first, stop the threat, or at least to delay the war—to secure eight years to restore economic growth and create powerful armed forces."



Petro Poroshenko, who was an informant at the U.S. embassy in Kyiv before the U.S. sponsored him to become Ukraine's president. [Source: [ndtv.com](https://www.ndtv.com)]

### **The Propaganda War**

President Biden and other public officials have repeatedly used the phrase "unprovoked attack" to characterize Russia's motivations as nothing more than territorial aggression. Such claims are made without credible evidence,



as if the invocation of the name Putin is enough to establish any statement about him or the Russian state as proof by its mere utterance.

The problem, as many observers have noted, is that the mainstream media serve as little more than a national and international graphic transmission and amplification tool of the state and ruling-class consensus. This, of course, is nothing new, as more than 400 journalists from the MSM were discovered to have served as the eyes and ears of the CIA during much of the Cold War, as reported by Watergate journalist [Carl Bernstein](#). There is [evidence](#) that at least some journalists continue to act as messengers for the Agency.

Those Washington Beltway insiders have problems understanding what constitutes provocation. The expansion of hostile U.S. and NATO forces and war games carried on to the gates of Russia, including the plan to add Ukraine and Georgia to the list of members, are clearly provocations. And if Biden's memory is at all intact, he will remember how the Kennedy administration treated the presence of a single Soviet military base in the Western Hemisphere (in Cuba) as a threat to U.S. security. In that case, the Soviets had the good sense to back off.

The Maidan coup in 2014, which even the U.S. puppet president [Poroshenko admitted](#) was unconstitutional (i.e., illegal) and the subsequent banning of the Russian language and call for a general ethno-cleansing in public institutions and media by his government were provocations. So too were the military assaults in the Donbas region, instigated by the U.S.-armed and -trained neo-Nazi Azov Battalion, starting in 2015. Just prior to the Russian invasion, Kyiv put a massive formation of troops on the border with the breakaway oblasts, Donetsk and Luhansk.

The secession of Kosovo, following 78 days of U.S. bombing of Russian ally Serbia, had Washington's full support and for Russians served as a precedent for the Crimea breakaway. Prior to the Russian invasion, Volodymyr Zelensky launched authoritarian purges of opposition parties that were accused of giving voice to Russian-speaking Ukrainians. Poroshenko and Zelensky refused to abide by the Minsk agreements. These too were provocations.

Indeed, the 75-year history of U.S. efforts to destroy the sovereignty of the Soviet and Russian states is an unending provocation. The U.S. and NATO aggression against Russian allies in Syria and Serbia (and China) and the "color revolutions" in Belarus, Serbia, Georgia, Ukraine and elsewhere in the former Soviet region and the expanding list of sanctions against Russia are further forms of aggression. The amnesia of the MSM in this recent history would be difficult to comprehend were it not for the understanding that they in fact serve as instruments of state propaganda, what Louis Althusser called ideological state apparatuses.

[As Noam Chomsky expressed it](#): "It's quite interesting that in American discourse, it is almost obligatory to refer to the invasion as the 'unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.' Look it up on Google, you will find hundreds of thousands of hits. Of course, it was provoked. Otherwise they wouldn't refer to it all the time as an unprovoked invasion." If Chomsky is not convincing enough, perhaps the U.S./NATO warmongers might heed [Pope Francis](#), certainly no Russophile, who ascertained that the invasion is the result of "the barking of NATO at the gates of Russia.... I can't say if it was provoked, but perhaps, yes."

The deluge of MSM propaganda against Russia and the embargo of voices that question the official story regarding the 2014 coup and the Russia-Ukraine conflict expose U.S. democracy as a model not worthy of emulation. There are few if any authoritarian states where suppression of news is of such magnitude and so institutionally entrenched as in the U.S.

[Elsewhere](#), I have discussed the wide presence of former military and intelligence officials with ties to defense industries populating the broadcast and cable news channels as "expert analysts," and the uses of white supremacist ideology by MSM reporters to depict displaced Ukrainians as a special group of "worthy victims."

A central feature of the MSM reporting and celebrity culture has been the portrayal of Zelensky as a “hero,” selflessly defending Ukraine against tyranny. The hero image in America is an old trope taken from a long line of such larger-than-life military exemplars that include John Wayne’s characters in World War II, the construction of the Vietnam war criminal into “war hero” John McCain, the chicken hawk Ronald Reagan, *Rambo*, the Indian killer Daniel Boone, and so many others.

Propaganda is now openly a major part of the U.S. war arsenal, and the government does little to hide the fact. Apart from the massive arms shipments the U.S. and NATO allies are supplying Ukrainians to kill domestic and foreign Russians, some [150 American and other global PR firms](#), according to *PRWeek*, including a British company with close ties to the ruling Conservative Party, have offered to supply Ukraine with propaganda tools—weapons of mass deception.

At the same time, there has been close to no reporting on Zelensky’s less than sterile record on corruption, an endemic problem for Ukraine, which is ranked the by U.S., UK- and corporate-funded Transparency International as the most corrupt country in Europe. Apart from failing to bring down the oligarchs who rule the country (50 of whom hold 45% of the country’s wealth), including his own patron, the corrupt and [U.S.-sanctioned](#) Ukrainian-Israeli-Cypriot billionaire Igor Kholomoisky, Zelensky himself has been exposed in the [Pandora Papers](#) as a *goniff*, with millions stashed away in offshore accounts in the British Virgin Islands and in properties in London. His shuttering of the entire political, media and intellectual opposition makes it difficult for Ukrainians to get wind of his less-than-heroic financial machinations.

Exposure of these realities in the U.S. and UK social media or in books and journals leads to being labeled a Russian “bot” or “Putin’s useful idiot.” Perhaps the most authentic useful idiot is Russiagate Rambo [Adam Schiff](#), Democrat from California and Chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, who on the occasion of the Trump impeachment hearings in January 2020, said, “We fight Russia over there so we don’t have to fight them here.”



Adam Schiff [Source: [thehill.com](#)]

This is what passes for intelligence in Congress.

### Takeaways

One must take seriously the insight of German political theorist [Carl Schmitt](#), who argued that powerful nation states need to have enemies in order to define who they are, and that their “political actions and motives can be reduced to the distinction between friend and enemy.” For Schmitt, the “enemy” need not be construed as evil, but for the U.S., the enemy is always embedded with religious notions of

immorality.

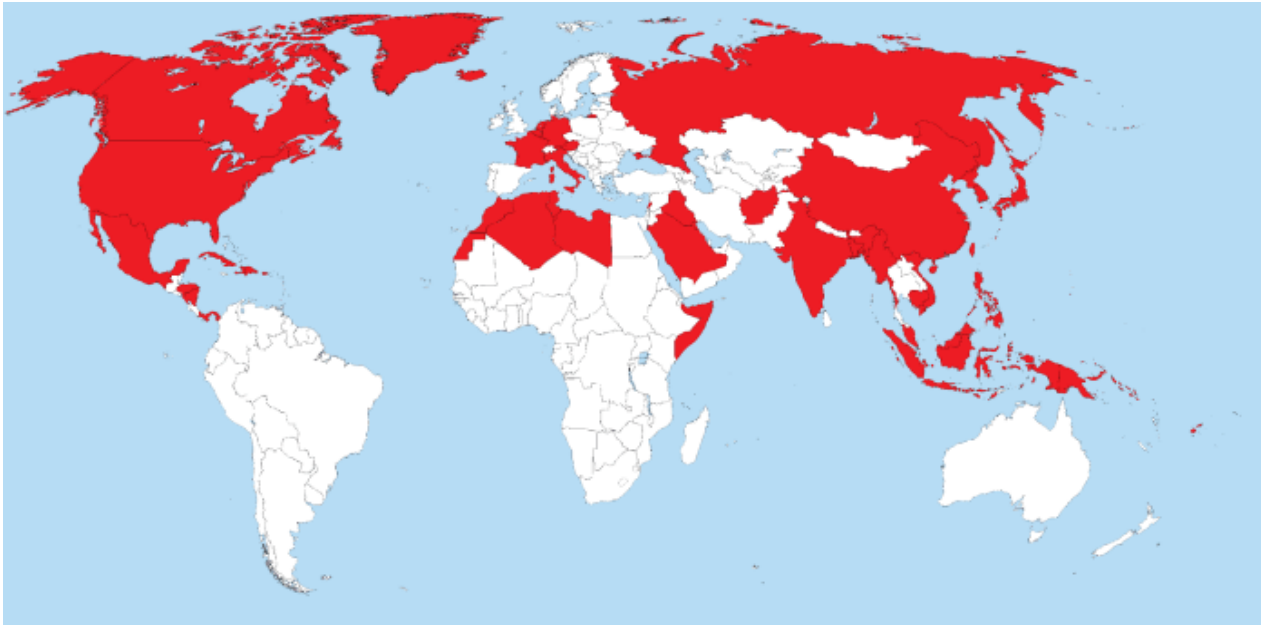
Schmitt ultimately lent his intellect to the service of the Third Reich, but the U.S. itself confirmed by its early “stay behind” actions in Ukraine and other parts of Europe that it was prepared to adopt some of the same tactics, if not ideology, of their Nazi recruits.

Constructing the Soviet Union, later Russia, as an enemy had at least three utilities: creating a national threat to divert public attention from the massive inequities within the corporate capitalist economy; justifying the building of a national security (police, imperialist) state and empire, built upon a military-industrial-media complex, with an extraordinary level of military spending as a hedge against depression; and organizing a broad propaganda complex modeled on the Office of War Information in World War II to maintain the legitimacy of the state as a moral force in a world threatened by evil leaders who seek to take away Americans’ freedom.

In reality, it is the U.S. itself which is stripping the country of its vaunted “four freedoms” and denying other countries, particularly in the Third World, of their independent paths to development and freedom.

The main point of the anti-imperialist argument is not to defend the war in Ukraine but to look more deeply into its causes. The U.S. has long been a highly militarized society and indeed has been [out of war for only 15 years](#) of its existence.

And when the U.S. is not directly invading (into 84 countries to date), it sponsors invasions and coups against countries that run against its strategic interests (Chile, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Yemen, Brazil, Argentina, Angola, Venezuela, D. R. Congo, Gaza, Greece, Ecuador, Ghana and many others).



Map of countries where the United States has fought in or occupied. Excludes air strikes and special forces operations. [Source: [reddit.com](#)]

The Ukraine crisis is also a sponsored war, as Kyiv’s assault on the Donbas region is ultimately in the U.S. interest, as its [resources](#), including a “highly developed coal industry, ferrous-metallurgy industry, machine building, chemical industry, and construction industry, enormous energy resources, diversified agriculture, and a dense transportation network” are lusted over by transnational capital and finance.

Beyond Ukraine lies the vast territory of Russia and untold wealth of energy, strategic minerals, and other resources that call out to a globally expansionist and militarist corporate capitalist system like the U.S. There are certainly ways out of the present crisis in Ukraine, but they require the neutralization of the country and its conversion to a demilitarized state that, with the U.S. alliance, respects and enforces the rights and equality of its ethnic Russian population.

The West also has to acknowledge on some level Russia’s legitimate security interests, which have become compromised by the horde of NATO forces far too close to its borders. The concept of state security is enshrined in the United Nations Charter, and the avoidance of an even larger catastrophe requires that the U.S. act in compliance with UN dicta for peace and remove its obstacles to a negotiated settlement, which is in the long-term interest of Ukraine, Russia, and the rest of the world.

---



## Zelensky quietly deletes photo of his bodyguard's pro-Hitler patch

**ALEXANDER RUBINSTEIN · SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

<https://thegrayzone.com/2022/09/15/zelensky-bodyguards-hitler-patch/>

**The Ukrainian President published a photograph on his social media channels showing one of his security escorts bearing a patch referencing the personal bodyguard unit of Adolf Hitler.**

On September 13, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprise trip to the city of Izyum in the Kharkov Region for a photo op following his military's recapture of the town from Russian forces. During the visit, a soldier who appeared to be guarding Zelensky was photographed wearing a Nazi-inspired patch on his uniform.

When the image drew criticism on social media, the Ukrainian president's official Telegram and Facebook accounts quietly deleted it.

In Izyum on September 14, Zelensky participated in a flag raising ceremony to the tune of the Ukrainian National Anthem and took selfies with local civilians and soldiers... One photograph posted on Zelensky's Telegram and Facebook accounts (archived [here](#) and [here](#)) captured the president as he posed for selfies with Ukrainian troops. As Zelensky flashed a smile for the camera of a cheerful service member, he was flanked by a heavily equipped soldier standing guard and facing the opposite direction. Just over Zelensky's right shoulder, a small but significant patch could be seen on the back of the soldier's flak vest.

Social media users quickly identified the symbol. It was derived from the "Totenkopf," (German for "Death's Head"), an insignia widely used in Nazi Germany. Badges incorporating the skull and bones motif were popularized by Germany's Death's Head Units, whose original [task](#) was to serve as guards at concentration camps. In October 1939, some 6,500 members were [deployed](#) as frontline fighters in the attempted conquest of Europe and the Soviet Union, carrying out war crimes and ethnic cleansing on their way.

Zelensky's bodyguard appeared to sport a slightly altered version of the SS-Totenkopf's patch; it was missing the crossbones and the skull was wearing a helmet.

However, this reporter was able to find three online vendors based in Ukraine that sell the patch, which is branded the "Operator Skull" and manufactured by a company called R3ICH, an explicit reference to Nazi Germany.



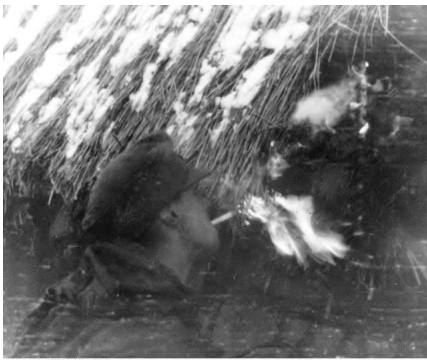
*A side-by-side comparison of the R3ICH patch and an enhanced version of the patch worn by Zelensky's bodyguard*

*SS-Totenkopf's symbol*

While a clear and sizable shot of the insignia decorating Zelensky's apparent bodyguard has yet to emerge, enhanced renderings of the image demonstrate he was clearly sporting the same design manufactured by R3ICH. Both badges feature a skull wearing a helmet, the headgear is virtually identical, the nose and eye holes share the same amount of space between them, the silhouettes are indistinguishable, and the tally marks drawn on the helmet appear in the same location.

A closer look at the R3ICH's "Operator Skull" patch reveals an even more disturbing detail: a skeleton key displayed on the top right of the helmet is a clear reference to SS Division Leibstandarte, or Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler — Hitler's personal bodyguard unit. The unit later evolved into a Panzer, or armored tank division and, like the Totenkopf, participated in several invasions throughout Europe and the Soviet Union.

While the SS Division Leibstandarte made its way through Kharkov — where this week Zelensky's bodyguard was photographed with the "Operator Skull" patch — during the Second World War, one of its units earned the nickname "Blowtorch Battalion" for its habit of burning down Russian-speaking villages.



*A soldier of the Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler lights his cigarette on the burning thatched roof of a building in Kharkov. Photo [via](#) German Federal Archives*

---