

Empire of Lies, Empire of Death

Recent US Eurasian wars, Russiagate, and the End of an Age

Some reflections by a Peace Activist: talk for ANSWER Coalition, May 25, 2018

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“When the methods of Information War in Fourth Generation Warfare are used in Total War, it results in a war upon the psyche, a war upon cognition, a war upon our very conception and understanding of reality. This will be an increasing feature of our relationship with reality.” (Joaquin Flores, “[Russia vs. US: Total War is the Obliteration of Reality](#),” [Fort Russ](#), July 2015)

“[I]n the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods. It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously.” (Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*)



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Severe converging crises have introduced unsolvable political problems and contradictions

In *The Loss of Reality in Neurosis and Psychosis* [1924] Freud wrote: “Neurosis does not disavow the reality, it ignores it; psychosis disavows it and tries to replace it.” [p. 185] What psychosis replaces reality with is delusion.* **Delusion, lies, or both.**

What are some these crises?

- Loss of cheap, efficient oil, with no substitute in sight
- Climate collapse, with no end in sight
- “Declining empire syndrome” (all the standard elements), with no remedy in sight
- Ecological decline and resource limitations, with no remedy in sight
- Rising inequality, precarity, loss of perceived legitimacy by government institutions and leaders, collapsing enfranchisement, with no remedy in sight
- Rise of competing powers, with no remedy in sight

*Dmitri Orlov “Peak Oil Oppositional Disorder: Neurosis or Psychosis?”, <http://cluborlov.blogspot.com/2012/07/peak-oil-oppositional-disorder-neurosis.html>

It's important to understand that there cannot and will not be "happy endings," in the material sense we are used to.

The need for feel-good, "positive news" --

- **For politicians**
- **For products**
- **For empire**
- **For finance**
- **And through it all, for media income --**

leads to strategic omission, dissimulation, and lies.

We by contrast must:

- **Try to figure out what is true, including knowing what is implacable in our situation;**
- **Live in truth (Havel), seek what is best, and decide what our political norms should be and how to actualize them.**

An alarming trend: “Independent” “progressive” media and spokespersons may not be factually or morally reliable.

- Progressive “groupthink” is heavily enforced by social groups and materially-interested institutions and individuals;
- “Political correctness” is deeply ingrained;
- Faux “resistance” is everywhere;
- Money is necessary for all groups, media, and people;
- The respect of peers is a real need, so we can’t be too critical;
- Some framings are almost wholly pernicious (e.g. identity politics) or are especially facile and lend themselves readily to manipulation, though widely accepted (e.g. human rights, as vs. human obligations; “responsibility to protect”)
- The rise of Trump and Rightist, corporatist forces creates space for centrist and liberals to move to the political Right; being “against Trump” is meaningless.
- Various icons of the left have recently voiced pro-war views, omitting key facts and frames (e.g. Chomsky, Goodman)

Advice:

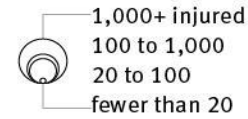
- Decide how important knowing something really is for you and your political/social/ecological work; that work is what is really important for your community and the planet;
- Don't bother reading or watching the mainstream media (MSM) unless you want to spend *all day every day* walking back from the resulting misunderstandings;
- Start with the dissectors, analysts, and specialists in the fields you are working in, then read/watch the MSM *as necessary*, perhaps mostly to observe what they are saying;
- Compare and contrast sources, making allowance for institutional bias/objectivity, the quality of data and analysis presented, and logic (as in, *cui bono?*);
- Where diverse sources with differing political agendas agree, and data quality is high, fairly reliable truth may be near;
- Know that some mysteries will never be resolved – the fog of information war is now everywhere;
- There is no data or societal awareness of many important events; people, animals, species, and habitats mostly die in silence.
- “Genius is the supernatural virtue of humility with respect to truth.” (Weil)

Why Ukraine, Syria, Iran, and so on?

- Beginning in late 2013 or early 2014 at the latest, mainstream US news media achieved close to a complete break with reality, over Ukraine. This is not just the Big Lie from a single source; it is nearly universal. No dissenting views are presented in elite and popular media. Many people have noticed that this is unprecedented in our lifetimes (Ilargi at [The Automatic Earth](#), Robert Parry at [Consortium News](#), [James Kunstler](#)). As Ilargi points out, in 2014 breathtaking, detailed claims potentially affecting the US existentially were being made *without any proof whatsoever*.
- This is obviously very dangerous. Creation of unrebutted false history marks a totalitarian shift and is normal only for societies falling into totalitarianism (Hedges). Violence inevitably results, including violence against the weak in society.
- It is a cultivated aspect of what I think is an increasing mass psychosis which could make the US incapable of rational response to *any* crisis (cf. [Orlov](#), citing Freud).
- Government is the first victim of its own lies, and amplifies them. We see this.
- The Ukraine (and Syrian) crises have deep, enduring roots and will affect everything that happens henceforth in arms control and disarmament, US government budgets, the US social contract, fuel supplies, and our ability to confront climate collapse.
- The Ukraine crisis writ large directly threatens nuclear war, and is therefore very germane to the work of this organization – to disarmament and to arms control.

Chemical Weapons Attacks in Syria since 2013

ALLEGED PERPETRATOR: ■ Syrian Government ■ ISIS ■ Unconfirmed



SEP 12, 2013 Syria signs Chemical Weapons Convention
 JUN 2014 Entire declared CW stockpile shipped outside Syria
 AUG 7, 2015 UNSC and OPCW establish joint investigative mechanism on CW for Syria
 NOV 17, 2017 Joint investigative mechanism not renewed



Human Rights Watch: 85 Chemical Weapon Attacks in Syria, from

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/04/04/syria-year-chemical-weapons-attacks-persist>

See also <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Timeline-of-Syrian-Chemical-Weapons-Activity>

<https://www.stpete4peace.org/syria>

Geopolitical trail markers (apologies to historians)

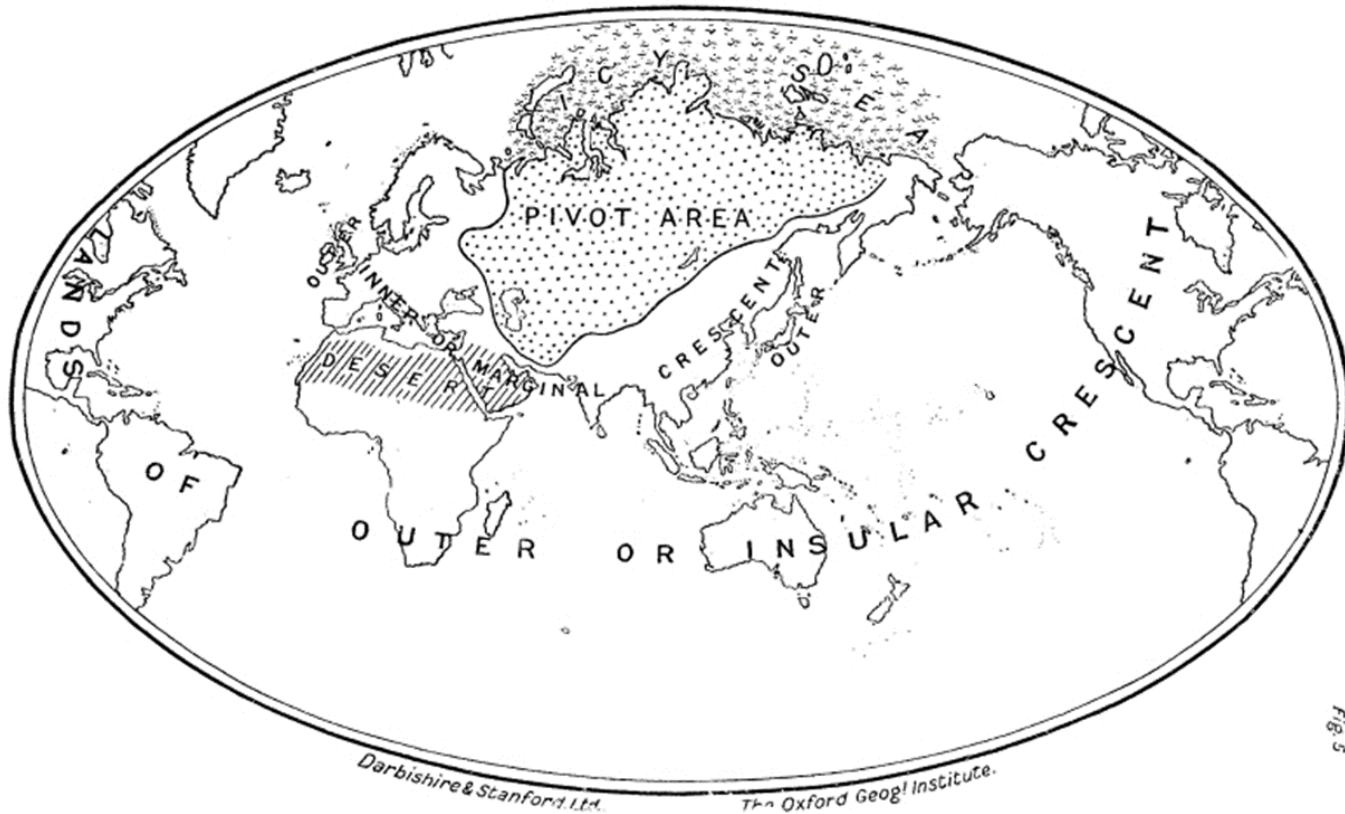
- 19th and early 20th century *Mitteleuropa* concept (e.g. Bismarck)
- Halford Mackinder, 1904: "Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland."
- Karl Haushofer reads Mackinder; Hitler agrees: Hitler invades Soviet Union
- George Kennan, 1946 and 1947, "containment" as imperial succession; Allen Dulles; encircling Russia with alliances (NATO, SEATO, Middle East TO (METO), later Central TO (CENTO), US-Japan Security Treaty)
- Brzezinski, Carter, Reagan, "Operation Cyclone" in Afghanistan
- Wolfowitz, 1992, "Draft Defense Planning Guidance"

Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power. These regions include Western Europe, East Asia, the territory of the former Soviet Union, and Southwest Asia.

(Continued)

- Brzezinski, 1997, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*
- GW Bush/Dick Cheney/Wolfowitz administration: formal National Security Strategy and action
- 2015 National Military Strategy of the United States of America – global hegemony an explicit objective, along with “preservation and extension of universal values” (?!)
- (Elements in intelligence community with Democratic support attempt to prevent Trump presidency; launch Russiagate after election in concert with intelligence agencies to remove/control Trump; real attempted coup d’etat)
- Trump National Security Strategy (Mattis, neocons, etc.)
- Bolton + Pompeo + Haspel: complete neocon takeover

Mackinder, in Alfred McCoy, "[The Geopolitics of American Global Decline: Washington Versus China in the Twenty-First Century](#)"



THE GEOGRAPHICAL PIVOT OF HISTORY.

Fig. 5

THE NATURAL SEATS OF POWER.

Pivot area—wholly continental. Outer crescent—wholly oceanic. Inner crescent—partly continental, partly oceanic.

CHINA-CENTRAL ASIA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

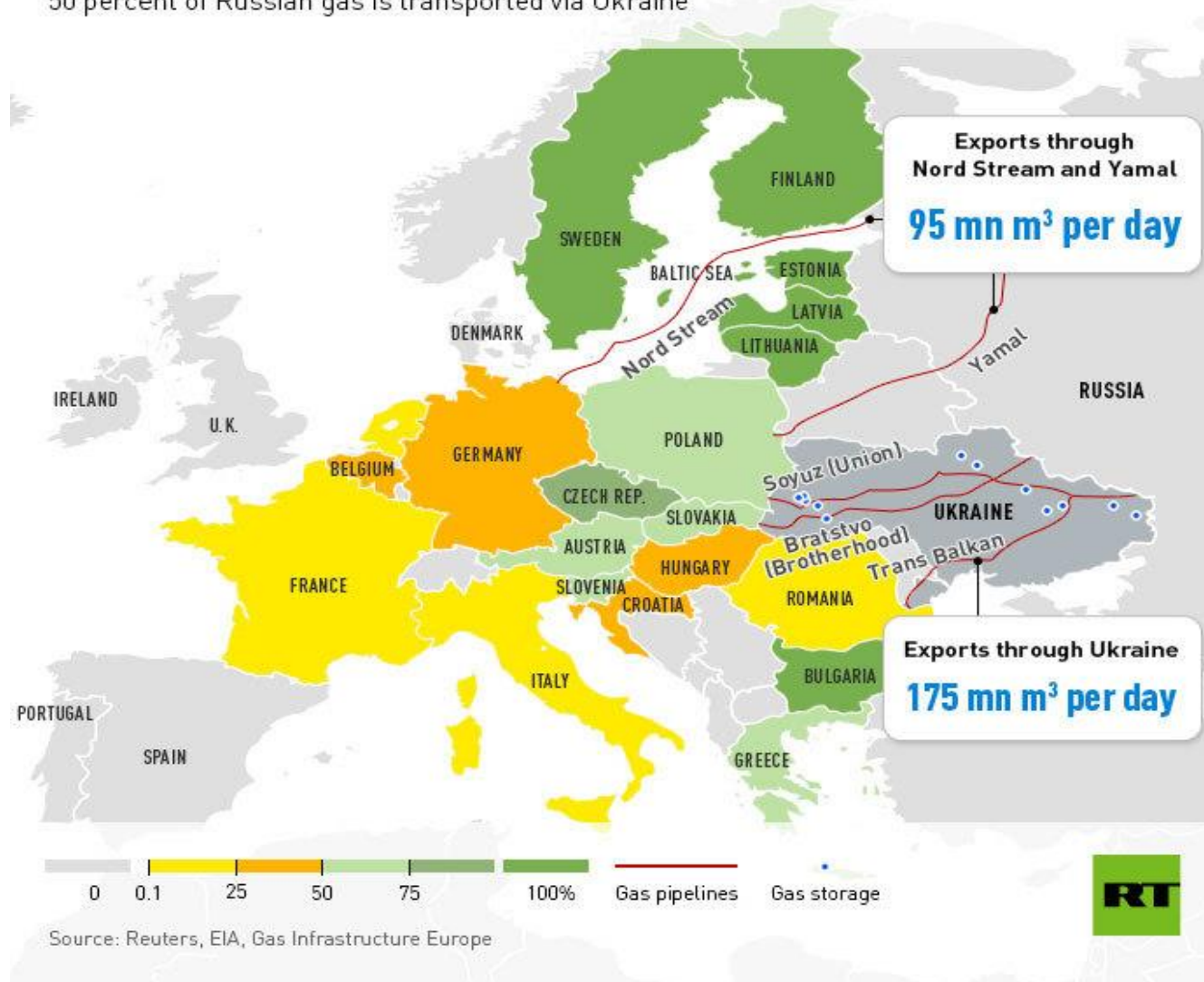


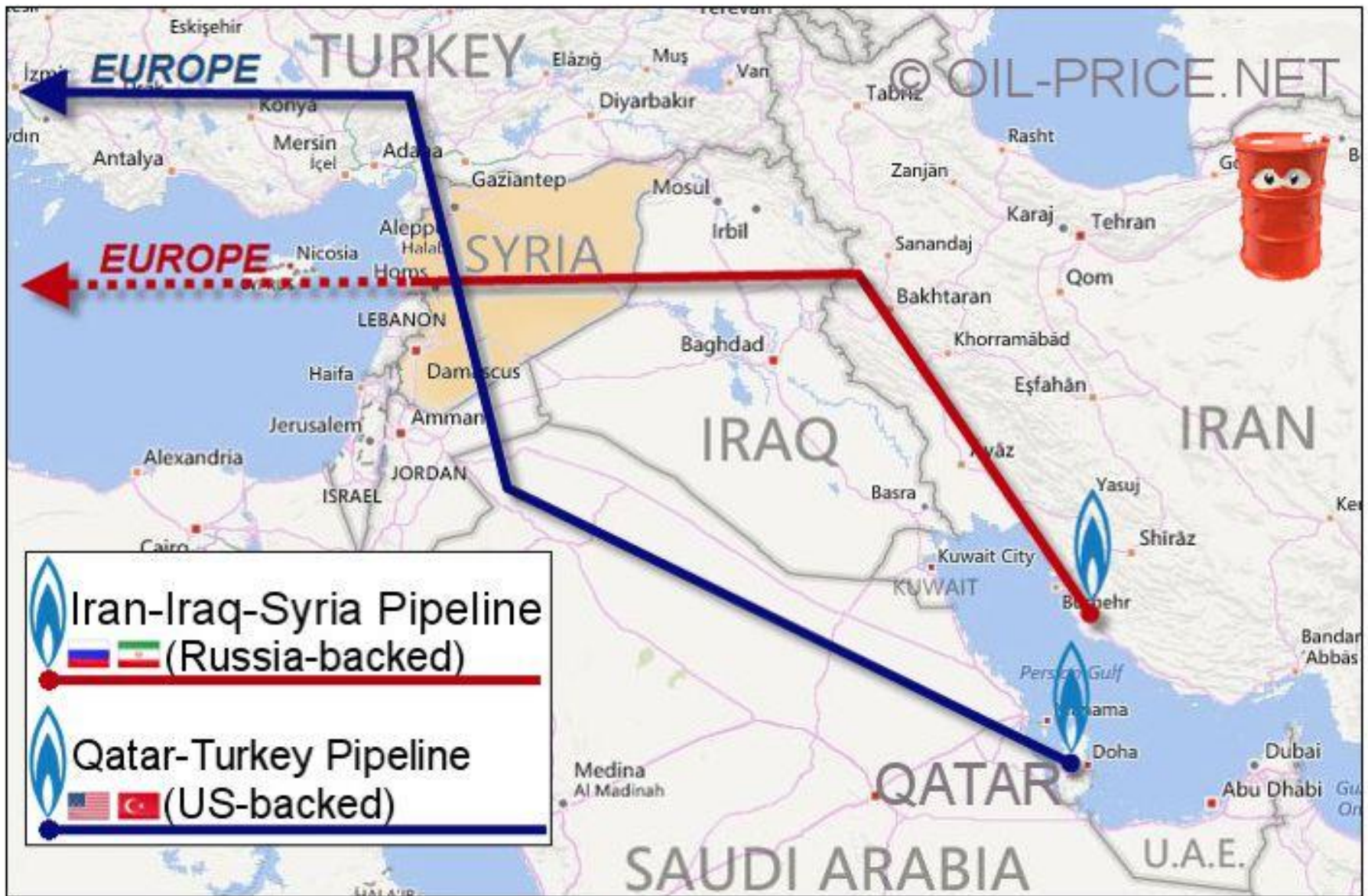
THE SINO-MYANMAR PIPELINE



Russian gas in Europe

Russia is Europe's biggest gas supplier providing 30 percent of the continent's needs
50 percent of Russian gas is transported via Ukraine

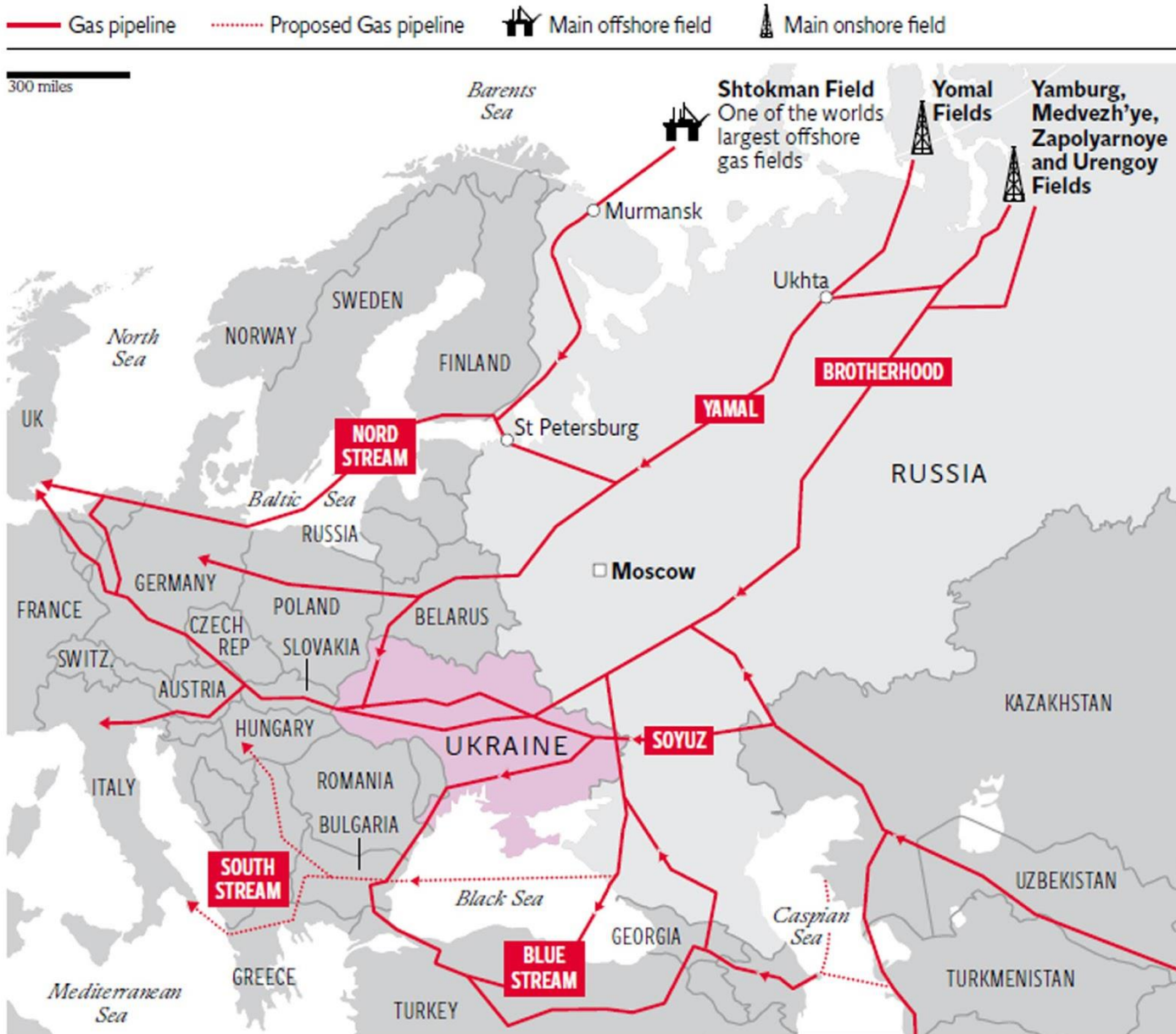




From Eric Zuesse, "The Oil-Gas War in Syria, in Maps"

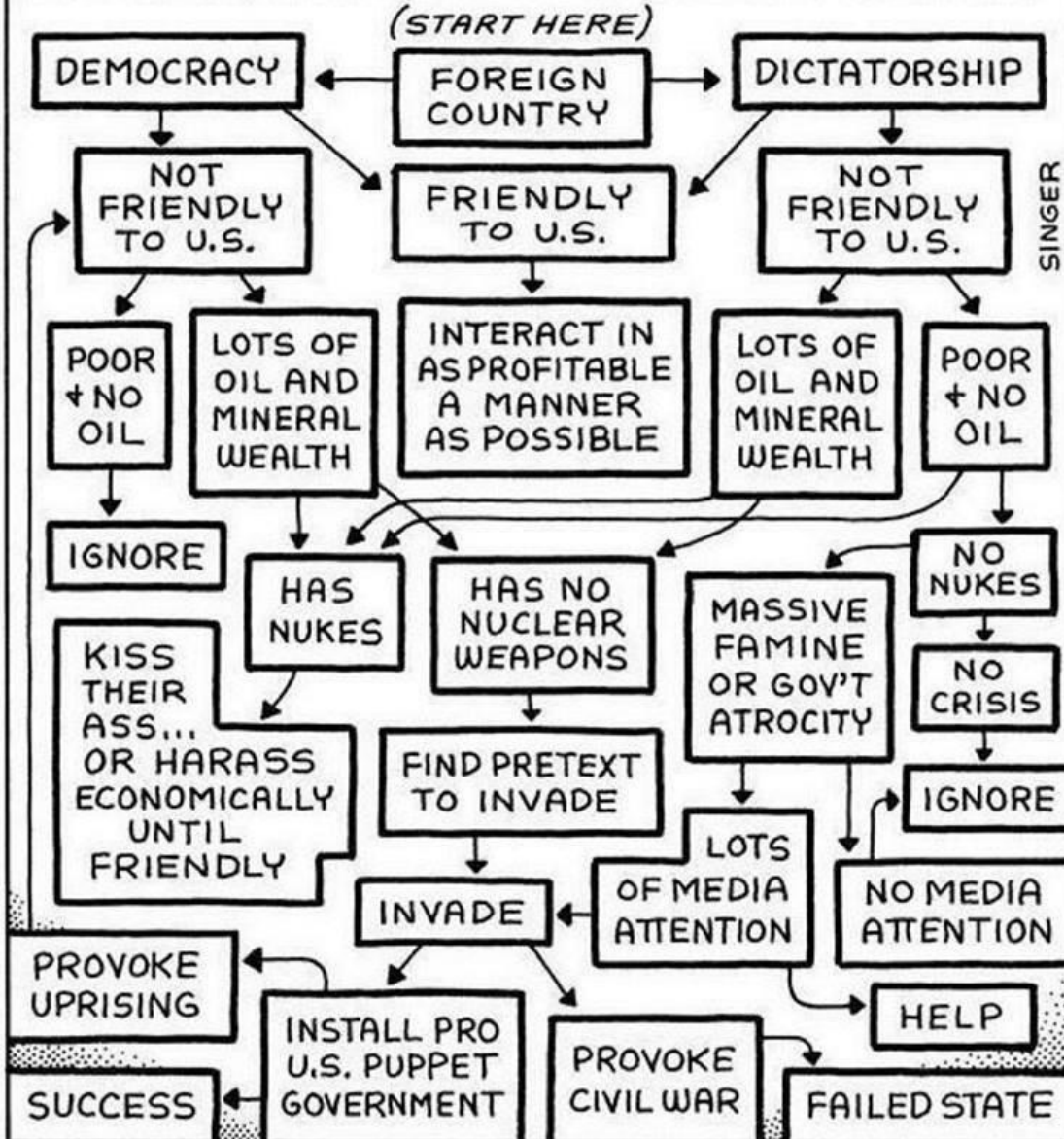
<https://www.strategic-culture.org/news/2016/10/24/oil-gas-war-over-syria-maps.html>

MAIN RUSSIAN GAS PIPELINES TO EUROPE





HERE'S A HANDY
U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FLOW CHART



Many people come to the CEB through conversion experiences, but also because they are keenly concerned with the spiritual and infrastructural needs of their community.^[29] Through his fieldwork in working-class neighbourhoods of [Rio de Janeiro](#), Vásquez reveals that CEBs combat disenfranchisement but also serve to overcome the obstacles associated with materialism and globalization. The social and political impact can be viewed in terms of initial consciousness-raising, the motivation for involvement, the sense of community they develop, the experience of grassroots democracy, the direct actions they engage in, and finally, directly political actions.^[10]



Why Ukraine, p. 2?

- Roughly in Europe's geographical center; borders 7 countries including a long border with Russia. After European Russia, Europe's largest country by land area.
- Resources, agriculture, aerospace and other key industries, exporting to Russia or available for plucking via the "Shock Doctrine."
- Russia's southwestern gateway to Europe; pivotal geographic location. If the goal is to isolate Russia from Europe, Ukraine is essential.
- Major gas transit country to western Europe from Russia.
- Sevastopol in Crimea is headquarters for Russia's Black Sea fleet, and a warm-water seaport from which Russia can defend the region and itself.
- Home to corrupt oligarchs in post-Soviet time; economic failure and lower standard of living than under Soviets; somewhat artificial boundaries (Lenin, Khrushchev, post-Soviet?); useful nationalist and Nazi past, neo-Nazi groups present for use as thugs; populace easily stirred by color revolution techniques *against* government and *for* European integration and travel for work, study, & living.
- Therefore: an excellent location, perhaps none better, in and from which to pursue hybrid war against Russia. Even a failed state in Ukraine would be (is) a major headache for Russia, so it is not necessary to "win" the geopolitical contest there.

[Gorbachev Interview, Der Spiegel 1/16/2015: 'I Am Truly and Deeply Concerned'](#)

SPIEGEL: Do you think it is possible there could be another major war in Europe?

Gorbachev: Such a scenario shouldn't even be considered. Such a war today would inevitably lead to a nuclear war. But the statements from both sides and the propaganda lead me to fear the worst. If one side loses its nerves in this inflamed atmosphere, then we won't survive the coming years.

SPIEGEL: Aren't you overstating things a bit?

Gorbachev: I don't say such things lightly. I am a man with a conscience. But that's the way things are. I am truly and deeply concerned.

SPIEGEL: The new Russian military doctrine labels NATO's eastern expansion and the "reinforcement of NATO's offensive capabilities" as one of the primary threats facing Russia. Do you agree?

Gorbachev: NATO's eastward expansion has destroyed the European security architecture as it was defined in the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. The eastern expansion was a 180-degree reversal, a departure from the decision of the Paris Charter in 1990 taken together by all the European states to put the Cold War behind us for good. Russian proposals, like the one by former President Dmitri Medvedev that we should sit down together to work on a new security architecture, were arrogantly ignored by the West. We are now seeing the results.

Why did we do this?

We do not need to re-invent the wheel.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xgtJw49mgOY&index=10&list=UUaZOism_rEmMLl7rcGprCPO

Why is the US involved in Ukraine? Why are we supporting neo-Nazis in Ukraine? 4 min video emphasizing Brzezinski and global primacy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-RyOaFwcEw&index=11&list=UUaZOism_rEmMLl7rcGprCPO

Hour-long video "US support of violent neo-Nazis in Ukraine: Video Compilation"

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UUaZOism_rEmMLl7rcGprCPO

These are more St. Pete for Peace vids.

Humanitarian Disaster

- The goal: ethnic cleansing (similar to Hitler, actually – empty the land by any means necessary). Poroshenko explicitly called for shelling of cities *and children*, use of terror tactics. Nazi/Neo-Nazi battalions sent into cities.
- Rebellion sparked by mass killings in Odessa, bus of protesters on highway, stripping of civil rights of specific ethnic groups by legislation, arrival of Nazi thugs and troops, murders – everybody saw from which way the storm was coming
- The result: several thousand direct deaths, many civilian. German intelligence says the death toll is ten times higher, which would be more reasonable given limited and food, heat, medicine, lack of housing, and extreme stress. Counting dead fighters always undercounts.
- Several hundred thousand or a million refugees fleeing into Russia (per Kiev plan)
- The usual list of sorrows. This is a real war, on a large scale.
- Trailer (4:28): [The Anna Tuv Story](#). Enormous amounts of photographic, video, and witness evidence.
- [Rep. Rohrabacher vs. Samantha Power on shelling of Ukraine](#)