

Reminiscence of the Future...

Si Vis Pacem, Para Vino © Andrei Martyanov's Blog

Thursday, August 1, 2019

START Misidentification.

Daniel Larison misidentifies motive, or, rather, doesn't go deep enough. He writes on Bolton's (of course his, Trump is merely a useful idiot in this) success in sabotaging START.

Bolton is the ideological arch-nemesis of arms control, so when he claims to identify "flaws" in an agreement this is just an excuse for killing an agreement that he would be opposed to no matter what it included. Like his hostility to the nuclear deal with Iran (Bolton dropped in his usual lie that Iran seeks nuclear weapons during this same speech), his opposition to New START has nothing to do with the substance of the treaty. On the merits, New START is a valuable, stabilizing agreement between the U.S. and Russia that serves the interests of both countries and makes the entire world more secure. Bolton's objections are spurious.

Larison continues:

Bolton is against the treaty because it constrains and reduces the U.S. arsenal. He is against arms control as such. He talks about more ambitious, comprehensive agreements as a way to cover up the fact that he doesn't want arms control treaties to exist. This is not a case of making the perfect the enemy of the good. It is feigning interest in "something" better to conceal a desire for destruction.

And still fails to provide the main cause for Bolton's aversion to "reduction of the US arsenal". Yes, we know that Bolton is a chicken-hawk, and we all know his (some) personal qualities which are cowardice and being a beta-male, trying desperately to act out his deep rooted complexes of inferiority. We also know that Bolton is in the pockets of Israeli lobby and Military-Industrial Complex. It is all fine and dandy, but this description can easily be applied to very many (majority, really) people in US political "elites". The main reason for Bolton acting like this is the fact that he believes, as only incompetent people can in lieu of knowledge and sound judgement, in US still being capable to fight and win a war with Russia. This IS both motive and rationale for Bolton's aggressiveness--he really doesn't have a clue about what he is trying to push through. Him being a cuck is an ornament to his, otherwise, full ignorance of serious military-technological issues which drive arms control and evolution of weapons.

Indeed, Bolton is a lawyer by education and, thus, an ignoramus. He, certainly, as many in US government humanities-"educated" operatives, believes that the United States still can outproduce Russia in intercontinental ballistic missiles category, thus, in Bolton's view "winning" an arms race. Maybe even "bankrupting" Russia in the process. That is the thinking of an amateur--the number of times the United States can obliterate Russia (now, I believe it is either 6 or 7) over doesn't change the balance of power. Sure, the United States may go from capability to annihilate Russia 7 times over to being able annihilating her 12 times--this changes absolutely nothing in a dyadic (US-Russia) relation, because it is enough to "kill" the nation only once. After that, game changes. If Russia can obliterate the United States 5 times over, as opposed to US' ability to do so 7 or 12 times, something doesn't add up, in this case, in Bolton's desire to bury START--he is not THAT stupid not to understand this simple fact that cut-off for any strategic nuclear weapons is not 7, not 5 but just 1 time--it is enough to kill the nation once with nuclear weapons. But Bolton still needs this opening for increases in US strategic arsenal. Or maybe he IS that stupid?

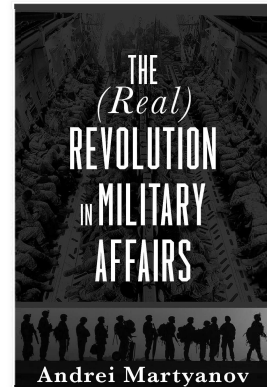
Before answering this question we need to answer the other one: are 3M22 Zircon or Kinzhal "strategic" weapons? Technically--no. But realistically--yes. Project 885 Yasen-class SSGN armed with 16-20 nuclear (or even conventionally) armed 3M22 Zircons and "parked" somewhere within the several million square miles area near both US Coasts can deal damage to the United States approaching that by the launch of several SLBMs of Bulava-class by Borei-class SSBN. We live today in the age of a strategic ambiguity which came with real revolution in military affairs and Russia decidedly pulling ahead of the United States in cutting edge stand-off hypersonic precision weapons, both in conventional and nuclear variants. This is not to speak of anti-missile defense systems Russia already deploys. How far back is the United States in this race? I don't know, but I would suggest a generation of weapon systems. Can (I am not saying that he is) Bolton theoretically be aware of this situation, granted that he treats Pentagon as his own fiefdom? I assume some "news", as well (not optimistic) as the time frame for the United States catching up with Russia in this arms race, may have reached Bolton. In this case, demolishing START is an obverse side to admitting the loss in this arms race and trying to impress Russia with sheer number of US intercontinental (and medium-range, of course, with INF being demolished too) missiles--because there is NO quality there.

Russians do not particularly care about how many times over they will be annihilated by the U.S. strategic arsenal--7 or 107--Russians (those who have a professional military background) already know where they are with the next generation of weapon systems, as well as are aware of the increasing technological gap between Russia and the US in systems which really matter for actual war fighting, not just nuclear deterrence. And it is here, in the field of actual combat, where the unprecedented historically shift in military balance happened in the last few years. Or was it that unprecedented? Well, it is just the matter of personal opinion, or is it? No, I am being facetious. Numbers do not lie, that is when professionals handle them. The United States desperately needs some "response" to Russia and in

For A Nice Shot Of Bourbon And A Good Cigar

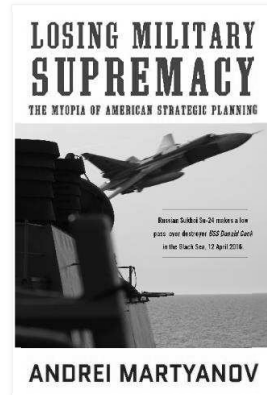


Real Revolution in Military Affairs



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It is Here

Saker's Review.



The above summary does not do justice to Martyanov's truly seminal book. I can only say that I consider this book as an absolutely indispensable "must read" for every person in the USA who loves his/her country and for every person who believes that wars, especially nuclear ones, must be avoided at all costs.

attempts to find it it will inevitably further destroy its reputation, as well as will admit to the fact, by destroying yet another arms limitation treaty, that it has no viable answer to own strategic conventional (and nuclear) vulnerability and lost arms race of which I am writing for years now. So, Bolton may have faith in whatever he wants, including in the American military mythology, but the times when both countries had to, using Khrushchev's lingo, produce ballistic missiles "as sausages" are long gone and new counter-force capabilities are evolving really fast thus making any quantitative changes in ballistic missiles not as important as qualitative ones, including bringing on board competent and realistic American military and political leaders, not the types as Bolton, Pompeo and, in the end, possibly Trump himself.

Posted by smoothiex12 at 10:14 AM 45 Comments

Labels: 3M22 Zircon, American military mythology, ballistic missiles, Daniel Larison, INF, John Bolton, Kinzhal, new counter-force, Russia, START treaty, US

Asia Times About The Book



In *Losing Military Supremacy*, his latest, groundbreaking book, crack Russian military-naval analyst Andrei Martyanov deconstructs in detail how, "the United States faces two nuclear and industrial superpowers, one of which fields a world-class armed forces. If the military-political, as opposed to merely economic, alliance between Russia and China is ever formalized – this will spell the final doom for the United States as a global power."

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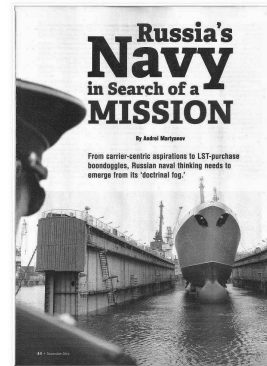
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My article came out in December issue of US Naval Institute Proceedings

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cdvision • 2 days ago

It is impossible now for the US to "catch up" qualitatively. They can't even build (obsolete) carriers anymore!

<https://www.rt.com/usa/4655...>

The engineering/manufacturing base in the US is hollowed out, and isn't coming back. The education system is dumbed down, concentrating more on virtue signalling than pure research - which is where Russia excels. Without the fundamental research in the pure sciences, especially mathematics, the US slips further behind.

And anyway, the money isn't there. By the US Treasury's own projections, by 2024 the entire annual debt will be needed to pay interest on existing debt. Those \$1000 coffee cups can't even be afforded. And of course de-dollarization gathers pace.

6 ^ | v • Reply • Share



smoothieX12 . Mod → cdvision • 2 days ago

Yes, it is in some way absolutely bizarre territory I am finding myself in when observe not only a massive, in fact historic, FUBAR with B-737 Max, but with what always was US strength--her CVNs. This whole USS Ford saga is down right embarrassing. In fact, it all now becomes one non-stop "show" from F-35 to Zumwalt-class, to LCS, to who knows what Columbia-class will be. And, as strange as it may sound, I objectively understand US necessity to at least modernize some of its deterrence platforms. Ohios are getting old, really old.

5 ^ | v • Reply • Share



Vasya Pypkin → smoothieX12 . • 2 days ago

It is a good lesson for clever people to learn from american example. How quickly the country can lose her scientific engineering competence. This is red queen case. Running faster and faster to just keep up. Few wrong steps and the game is over.

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The Arioch → Vasya Pypkin • a day ago

AFAIR it is well known empirically. Two generations gap is maximum which can be bridged by emergent measures. One generation gap is closed naturally, if young gen moves "into factories" where "elders gen" is still there to pass practical experience to them. Two gens need special and energetic policy to bring them together. Three generation gap means loss of "school of thought" and clean slate start.

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Vasya Pypkin → The Arioch • a day ago

Considering great efforts by liberals in Russian education , Russia is also under risk. Who knows how things will be in 30 years in Russia under this system.

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The Arioch → Vasya Pypkin • a day ago
but this risk was acknowledged and to some degree is being worked with

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Vasya Pypkin → The Arioch • a day ago

Let's see after Putin is gone. One thing is that the next going to have good hair and probably mustache. Not sure about leader qualities though. Historically it looks like leadership in Russia is cycling between clever or even genius to average or total imbecile.

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The Arioch → Vasya Pypkin • 21 hours ago

Because all those geniuses aim at creating efficient system that is used to efficiently destroy Russia after their death - efficiency proved

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Vasya Pypkin → The Arioch • 20 hours ago

Lessons of the past can be learned. By geniuses.

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Arctic_Fox → smoothieX12 . • 2 days ago

I will share with you that Navsea has a construction schedule for Columbia class that is down to days, over the next 20 yrs. The proposed life-end for early Ohio class vessels is programmed. First Columbia must be ready for service by dates certain... Or Navy will scramble not to leave a gap in deterrence patrols.

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