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Prognosis For 2022: Cautiously Pessimistic – Part I

Posted on

5-6 minutes

Dear Readers:

So, it's January 1 2022 and the world finds itself not just in the grips of a Plague, but also on the brink of a major war. Happy New Year!

Why is war looking increasingly inevitable? Short answer, in one word: **Ukraine**. In order to develop my pessimistic prognosis, of how and why Ukraine seems bent on inciting a war between Russia and NATO; and why I believe they will ultimately succeed in doing this (it goes without saying that I hope I am wrong!) — I start with [this insightful piece](#) by Russian pundit Dmitry Bavyrin. Whether you agree with him or not, Bavyrin is always worth reading. Here he has a slightly different (from the usual) take on the Banderites themselves, and why he thinks they constitute a perfect representation of the Ukrainian “mentality”. Please bear with me, this is an elaborate not so funny joke, and we have to work through a lot of material before we get to Bavyrin’s punchline, let us proceed...





Journalist Dmitry Bavyrin

Bavyrin: In 2022 the Ukrainian government plans to celebrate with great pomp, the 80th Anniversary of the founding of UPA (Russian spelling **УПА** – Ukrainian Insurgent Army), the military wing of the political party called OUN (Russian spelling **ОУН** – Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists). Soviet propaganda used to describe the UPA in one-dimensional fashion as “collaborators with Hitler’s army”, which they were indeed; but there is a lot more complexity to it, than just that. There is even some truth to Ukrainian Nationalists claims that the UPA “also fought against the Germans” as well as against the Soviets; in that the UPA did actually emerge as an underground formation within the Nazi-occupied Ukraine. And it is also true that both Stepan Bandera and his deputy Yaroslav Stetsko spent some time cooling their heels in the German concentration camp [Sachsenhausen](#), moreover Bandera’s younger brother Vasil, one of the leaders of the OUN, died in a different German concentration camp, Auschwitz to be precise. All of this is factual.

yalensis: But I think Bavyrin is missing one little point here. Other historians think that the Germans arrested Bandera, not because of his political aspirations for Ukrainian independence, but rather for simply **thievery**. Readers can refer to [this piece which I posted](#) back in 2019. The paragraph in question reading: *At a certain point, the Germans arrested Bandera when **they caught him with sticky fingers** taking money intended for the state treasury. Shukhevich was not affected by this development, and continued to serve the Germans as an officer. To this day you will hear*

Ukrainian Nationalists point to Bandera's arrest as proof that "he fought against the Nazis as well as against the Soviets". That old Dual Totalitarianisms gag! Too funny for words. That's a minor point, though. We will concede that Bandera, like all the Ukrainian nationalists, had his own agenda, which was not always 100% aligned with that of the Hitlerites.

Back to Bavyrin: Starting in October of 1941 the Hitlerite occupation forces arrested, on a mass scale, members of the OUN. The Germans were convinced that these Ukrainian Nationalists were preparing a rebellion... and they were not wrong! At their October conference, and even more so at their "Emergency Conference" convened in February of the following year, the OUN-ites enjoyed a lively discussion about organizing an uprising against the Germans. Some members even proposed forming an alliance with the Red Army, and then bargaining with the Reds for Ukrainian independence.



Members of Polska Armia Krajowa

This same strategy, by the way, was employed by the [Polska Armia Krajowa](#) (Polish Krajowa Army), which was led from abroad (by the government in exile). The Polish goal was to gain (or re-gain) parts of Western Ukraine and Western Belorussia, which had been taken away from them in 1939 and absorbed into the USSR.

This strategy (of trying to maneuver between Nazis and Soviets)

ended in catastrophe for the Poles. On the Ukrainian side, Roman Shukhevych was smart enough to see that it wouldn't work at all. At that time Shukhevych was not yet the main commander of UPA, he was just a Deputy Commander of of the 201st Battalion of the Ukrainian auxiliary police units subordinate to the German army, the so-called [Schutzmannschaft](#). Shukhevych believed that the Ukrainian Nationalists needed to lie low and keep their heads down, not annoy the Nazis, spend their time conducting propaganda among the population. He believed that the moment would come when the Nazis and the Soviets would have bloodied and weakened each other to the point, when the Ukrainian Nationalists could finally raise their heads and emerge as the survivors.

[to be continued]