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MoA - Policy By Other Means

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Policy By Other Means - By Helmholtz Smith

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"Hybrid war". Western propagandists love the expression "The bad guys are doing nasty underhand things to counter our clean-cut decent and wholly justified activities" but they are just making noise. As [Clausewitz knew](#), however, there is an actual meaning:

We see, therefore, that War is not merely a political act, but also a real political instrument, a continuation of political commerce, a carrying out of the same by other means. All beyond this which is strictly peculiar to War relates merely to the peculiar nature of the means which it uses (...) for the political view is the object, War is the means, and the means must always include the object in our conception.

In this sense, all intelligently-conducted wars are "hybrid wars" advancing on many levels to achieve the "political object" by "other means".

What is the "object"?

Moscow knows that NATO/USA is the real enemy and that the

wretched Ukrainians are its puppets and their looted and worn-out country is the arena. Putin himself has said that NATO's threat to Russia must be stopped. NATO, and the European Union with which it is closely linked, must be exposed as useless, actively harmful to their members and their hostility defeated.

NATO, which loves to pose as peaceful (despite the five or six wars it's started in the last quarter-century), cannot or will not understand Russia's point of view. Moscow will shove its face in it. Putin says that he has many times tried other means ([Munich 2007](#) being one of the earliest). Those means having failed, he's using these means this time.

Far-ranging aims require a multi-front attack. Let us consider the fronts.

MILITARY FRONT. Putin has explained the aims – denazification and demilitarization. Maybe they could have been achieved through negotiation – although years of Kiev ignoring the Minsk Agreements suggest not – but that didn't happen. Maybe Moscow hoped that its feint on Kiev might prevent a bloody slog but that didn't happen either. And so the battle of annihilation is on – Ukraine's military power is being smashed and the Nazis killed.

It's taking a long time for several reasons. Imagine the Western Front trench line but with three times as long to build it and concrete rather than sandbags and wood. Russia and its allies attacked with smaller forces. The allied forces are moving slowly to reduce their casualties and because they are in no particular hurry. The Ukrainians are resisting very tenaciously and NATO is egging them on. The Ukrainian forces are being methodically slaughtered, allied casualties are a fraction of that because "artillery conquers

and infantry occupies".

DIPLOMATIC FRONT. The West likes claim that Russia is isolated. But, in terms of population, the so-called "International Community" represents only 15 to 20 percent of the world and the Russians are well-received elsewhere. Here's Lavrov very much in the thick of things at [ASEAN](#), in Africa (note media attempts to [spin it away](#)) and the [Arab world](#).

Russia isn't isolated at all and its diplomacy is having effect. US diplomacy, on the other hand, is just threats – Africa is [warned](#), China [threatened](#).

ECONOMIC FRONT. When Moscow began its "special military operation", it expected that Nordstream 2 would be stopped because it knew the West was stuck on the idea that the Russian economy is dependent on selling energy to Europe – "[Russia cannot afford to cut its sales of oil](#)". Moscow had its response ready – hostile countries have to pay in rubles.

What's Europe's response? Hurt Putin by not showering. Don't, he doesn't care. Of course the price went up and Moscow has probably completely funded the operation out of the increased revenue. The West is discovering – and, advised as it is by people like Aslund, to its astonishment – that "the country that doesn't make anything" is a big producer of lots of essential things.

Moscow knew Washington would stick Europeans with the check – just as [Washington will fight to the last Ukrainian](#), it will sanction until the last European freezes. The economic war is doing more damage to Russia's enemies. They will either figure this out and change their behavior or they won't and they'll suffer. Moscow waits knowing that it wins either way.

PROPAGANDA FRONT. It is a common sentiment that Moscow is losing the propaganda war but I'm not convinced. Propaganda has to have some basis in truth – instead we have the martyrs of Snake Island miraculously reviving, the ghostly Ghost of Kiev, million-man armies disappearing, Kherson counter attacks put off again, maternity hospital bombings exposed by the bombed-out mothers, bodies thoughtfully left out to be seen, Russia begging China, Iran or North Korea for weapons, another "game-changer" weapon.

Russia was running out of ammunition in [March](#), [April](#), [June](#) and [July](#). You have to be pretty comatose to still believe this. The propagandists have lost their skills. And reality leaks out through the holes in these flimsy tales. Witness the reception of the Amnesty International report that Ukrainian tactics are "[putting civilians at risk and violating the laws of war when they operate in populated areas](#)".

"[Putin's propagandists](#)" chides The Times; "[cannot be tolerated](#)" says Zelensky; "[Russian propaganda](#)" as she quits. No news to us who have seen Azov fighters sheltering behind civilians in Mariupol, weapons hidden in shopping centers, troops setting up in schools. But it's a shocker to believers of the Western narrative (especially Vogue readers!).

Skeptics know that the difference between a conspiracy theory and reported truth is a few months. In June it was [Russian disinformation that corrupt officials were selling Western weapons](#), in [August it's news](#). Zelensky a hero then, [corrupt now](#). Expect more "disinformation" transforming into truth.

JUDO. Putin is well known to be a judo master. Judo is the art of

using the opponent's movements against it. That's what we are seeing. On every front Russia has time on its side and escalation dominance. The impotence of NATO and the EU – in fact the actual damage that membership in either brings – is more perceptible every day as winter approaches.

Europe's, the West's, predominance stood on three legs. The power to compel others. The captivating halo of success. The wealth to fund the other two. Watch this [little video](#) – not much respect there. I expect we will see more vignettes like this.

The statue is hollow, the Mandate of Heaven is shifting.

Posted by b on August 8, 2022 at 6:54 UTC | [Permalink](#)

Comments

The Americans are going to meet the Mandate from Heaven very soon!

China's PLA is almost ready to militarily take over Taiwan and defeat the Americans conventionally, not 110% ready as they want to be.

Here is an excellent video on the capabilities and numbers of the PLA vs. the USA:

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=gpnfwVlbd2Y>

Happy August 8, everyone!!

Posted by: Sam Smith | Aug 8 2022 7:17 utc | [1](#)

This blah blah about our great leaders propaganda. Fuck I get sick of it. Martyanov puts mathematics into warfare but the majority is blah blah about the the propaganda I see every day in our exalted MSM. Get a life.

Posted by: Peter AU1 | Aug 8 2022 7:17 utc | [2](#)

This article is confusing.

It begins with the premise of "hybrid war" and suggests all military conflict involves "hybrid war" which is the extension of the conflict into social, political, economic realms. "Hybrid war" is therefore understood to be synonymous with "total war."

World War I was a "total war" and included all aspects listed as "hybrid war." The German government gave Lenin free passage to the Finland Station as they were aware he would provoke civil unrest which would undermine Russian ability to continue the conflict. The UK created a false telegram suggesting Germany conspiring with Mexico to attack the US. This message was revealed to the US and caused it to enter the war which outcome was the objective of the telegram. T.E. Lawrence assisted in raising an "arab revolt" for the express purpose of weakening German/Ottoman military forces in the contested Middle East.

The same was true of World War II. It was also "total war" which included all aspects of "hybrid war."

What is remarkable about the Ukrainian conflict is that it demonstrates all aspects of a "hybrid war" in the complete absence of any official formal declaration of war. There exists no war; yet all the means of achieving a desired end - propaganda, information control, deception, economic sanction, blockade, covert military support etc. are all present.

What this means is that there no longer exists any demarcation between peace and war. All the measures used in total war are now freely applied during a period of ostensible peace. When Putin and others declare the US to no longer be "agreement

capable" it is due to the fact the US feels entitled to utilize any means to achieve its interests. The US is free to "lie, cheat, and steal" as famously declared by Secretary of State Pompeo. The US, and its western allies, have arrogated to themselves the right to act as they wish in order to enforce their interests; there no longer exist any moral or ethical boundaries on permitted conduct.

The Americans say one thing to China, they sign formal documents which state the American position, and they are free to act as they wish to achieve "full spectrum dominance."

It is this utter lack of restraint, the refusal to act in accord with accepted diplomatic protocols, the abnegation of ethical standards of conduct, the belief that one can do as one wishes without suffering any form of retribution, that is placing the world on the path to global conflict.

Posted by: Sushi | Aug 8 2022 7:28 utc | [3](#)

A good high-level summation of the last decades up to the current situation.

Everyone will want to add details but then it won't be a summary any more.

Posted by: Sunny Runny Burger | Aug 8 2022 7:32 utc | [4](#)

A very solid Essay, thought provoking. Some comments:

Military Front - NATOland is Setting up for a very long war. From NATOland's perspective, Ukraine is only one theater of many. We can expect all sorts of de-stabilization efforts on the periphery of Russia/Eurasia.

Diplomatic Front - it's slowly dawning on State that 80% of the world is ignoring them We can expect a big push made to corral

neutrals back on the reservation. Color Revolutions or similar regime change will be tried in India, Mexico, Brazil, etc.etc.

Economic Front - it's unlikely that Euro politicians will change their sanctions tune. Euro Pols are intensely Atlantists. Even if the current Euro gov'ts fall and new elections are held; the new gov't will still be Atlantist. The only real possibility for a change in European attitude towards Eurasian lies in Washington. Only, If there is a dramatic change in Washington's foreign policy consensus will the Euros change. And....the only way the Washington foreign policy consensus might change is through collapse or revolution. De-dollarization might be the catalyst for either of those unwelcome events. However, de-dollarization will take many years.

Propaganda Front - other than within NATOland; most of the world has accepted the narrative of Moscow and Peking. Check the MFA Websites of various neutrals. They are very much reflecting the Moscow/Peking point of view.

Just some further thoughts on this very good essay.

Posted by: Exile | Aug 8 2022 7:42 utc | [5](#)

Re: propaganda. The West wins on the home ground, and using the best arguments possible: comprehensive purge of opposing voices from "responsible media" (owned by the state and corporations) and vilification of the rest. Most people have some tribal instinct and the need to feel together, and they will go for that. Outside that ground, lame arguments and ignoring the basic facts may trickle to Chinese, Russians and Indians, but I cannot imagine many people there getting hold of it and developing mistrust of the domestic media as a result. Neither rationality not

tribal sentiments are in favor of accepting that dreck.

Re: economic front. Russian government, derided by many leftist as "Neo-liberal", is advised by people who know about economic planning and war economy. Why Putin delayed the war for eight years? To develop sufficient import replacement and to get a period of tight commodity prices. It is true that Russia may miss this and that among "essential components", but not enough to crush the economy. Russia possesses many key technology and can develop "missing pieces" that are less necessary than some Westerners think. In the same time, the ability to absorb economic advice seems to be lost among Western governments. Except for "napkin drawings" of finance theorists and "green economists". Russian economy was restructured for resiliency in several important ways, and western, not so much. We are not talking about Venezuela.

Re: military front. Certain Western prediction were actually right. Ukrainian army vastly over performed expectations, at least mine. However, it is to a large extent by tolerating high manpower losses that Russia strives to avoid. Another prediction was about massive local resistance. Perhaps not exactly massive, but sufficiently bothersome that Russia decided to withdraw from non-Russian-language-majority areas. In controlled areas we had some very isolated terrorist incidents that probably matter little. Vulnerability to missiles, delivered with quite a bit of delay seems smallish. Example 1: hitting logistic hubs. Solution: disperse storage. Example 2: destroying key bridges. Solution: quickly assemble pontoon bridges (and adding more gadgets to air defenses).

Demographically, both Russia and Ukraine have a "hole" for

people born around 2000, but Ukraine more so. Hence Ukraine has to mobilize middle and not-so-middle aged folks. War maniacs in those age groups exist, but those were recruited earlier, older people are harder to mold into obedient self-sacrificing mass than the younger, and there are other structural limitations. Both economy and the military need people with mechanical skills, operating and maintaining machinery, and if you mobilize "enough" to patch the holes in the frontlines, there may be not enough to operate what remained of civilian production, transport etc.

And now, ammo and weapons. Does Russia have enough? With their tactics, even if the production is too slow, the military effort can be slower, with enough firepower to stop attempts for major counterattacks. While Ukraine seems to be reduced to be a recipient of gifted weapons and materiel. Russia has the latitude how to pace operations. Now it seems to intensify once again, but options both for escalating and also for stopping, relatively speaking.

Posted by: Piotr Berman | Aug 8 2022 7:51 utc | [6](#)