



Gilbert Doctorow: Russia can obliterate the United States in 30 minutes

Description

If you want a concise and fairly accurate report on why Russia decided to invade Ukraine, then pick up Benjamin Abelow's *How the West Brought War to Ukraine: Understanding How U.S. and NATO Policies Led to Crisis, War, and the Risk of Nuclear Catastrophe*.

Abelow is a historian and medical doctor, and his sources are highly accessible to scholars and journalists. We will be discussing the contents of the book from time to time at VT, and here we want to highlight some of the points that he raises in the first few pages of the book.

In his book *On Bullshit*, Princeton philosopher Harry G. Frankfurt asserts that "One of the most salient features of our culture is that there is so much bullshit. Everyone knows this. Each of us contributes its shares."[\[1\]](#)

Frankfurt defines "bullshit" as speeches that seek to persuade without any regard whatsoever for truth and honesty. You may object to Frankfurt's use of the word, but take a look at what is actually happening in the media, particularly when it comes to the Russia/Ukraine war.

For example, Yahoo News has recently perpetuated: "Putin has given up on ambitions to conquer Ukraine after military losses that could take a decade to repair, says US intel." In a similar vein, the Daily Beast declared: "Intel Signals Putin's Dream of a Total Takeover Is Now Dashed."

Seriously? Where have these people been over the past few months? The New York Times, the Washington Post, and all the controlled media have been perpetuating the claim that Russia is on a suicidal, genocidal, and diabolical path. Yet none of those news outlets have been able to tell their readers why Russia had enough of NATO and indeed the United States.

We have said in the past that Russia is right in line with rational thought when it comes to Ukraine, and Abelow indirectly makes this very point. For example, Abelow declares on the Monroe doctrine:

"Any foreign power that places military forces near U.S. territory knows it is crossing a red line. U.S. policy thus embodies a conviction that where a potential opponent places its forces is crucially

important. In fact, this conviction is the cornerstone of American foreign and military policy, and its violation is considered reason for war. Yet when it comes to Russia, the United States and its NATO allies have acted for decades in disregard of this same principle.”

Abelow argues that Russia is following the same line of thinking. Abelow gives one example after another proving or showing that

“The underlying cause of the war lies not in an unbridled expansionism of Mr. Putin, or in paranoid delusions of military planners in the Kremlin, but in a 30-year history of Western provocations, directed at Russia, that began during the dissolution of the Soviet Union and continued to the start of the war. These provocations placed Russia in an untenable situation, for which war seemed, to Mr. Putin and his military staff, the only workable solution. Expanded NATO over a thousand miles eastward, pressing it toward Russia’s borders, in disregard of assurances previously given to Moscow.”

We will discuss some of those issues again later this month. Let us conclude with a quotation by Gilbert Doctorow:

“Be careful what you wish for. Russia has more nuclear weapons than the United States. Russia has more modern weapons than the United States. Russia can level to the ground the United States in 30 minutes. Is this a country in which you want to create turmoil?

“Moreover, if Mr. Putin were to be overturned, who would take his place? Some little mamby-pamby? Some new drunkard like [first Russian president Boris] Yeltsin? Or somebody who is a Rambo and just ready to push the button?...I think it is extremely imprudent for a country like the United States to invoke regime change in a country like Russia. It’s almost suicidal.”

[1] Harry G. Frankfurt, *On Bullshit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005), 1-2.

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