

The West's Role in Causing Global Insecurity

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Key Global Crises

1. The Disasters in the Greater Middle East
2. The Ukraine Crisis in Europe

Causes of These Global Crises

Role of the West versus Local Actors

Role of the US versus Europe

Bottom line: The West, especially the US, is principally responsible for all of these crises.

The Disasters in the Greater Middle East – I

* Afghanistan

* Iraq

* Syria

* Libya

The Disasters in the Greater Middle East – II

- * Making the terrorism problem worse
- * Inflicting massive suffering on innocent civilians
- * Flooding Europe with refugees

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The Ukraine Crisis

Crimea is lost to Ukraine for good

Simmering civil war in eastern Ukraine

Poisonous relations between Russia and the West that have negative effects inside and outside of Europe

Who Is Responsible?

Conventional Wisdom: Putin

My View: The West

Causes of the Conflict: My View

- Deep cause
- Precipitating causes
- Russian response

The Deep Cause

The aim of the United States and its European allies to peel Ukraine away from the Soviet orbit and incorporate it into the West.

Key Elements in that Strategy

** NATO Expansion

* EU Expansion

* Fostering an Orange Revolution

NATO'S Final Declaration

Bucharest Summit, April 3, 2008

“NATO welcomes Ukraine’s and Georgia’s Euro Atlantic aspirations for membership in NATO. We agreed today that these countries will become members of NATO.”

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister's Response to Bucharest Declaration

"Georgia's and Ukraine's membership in the alliance is a huge strategic mistake which will have most serious consequences for pan-European security."

Putin's Response to Bucharest Declaration

Georgia and Ukraine becoming part of NATO is a “direct threat” to Russia.

Russo-Georgian War

When? August 2008

Four months after the April 2008 Bucharest Declaration that Georgia and Ukraine would eventually join NATO

This was not a coincidence!

Causes of the Conflict: My View

- Deep cause
- Precipitating causes
- Russian response

The Precipitating Causes

Ukrainian President Yanukovich rejects an agreement with the EU in November 2013, which leads to demonstrations on the Maidan

The February 22, 2014 Coup: Yanukovich is overthrown

Understanding the Russian Response

What is it?

What motivates it?

Was it surprising?

Causes of the Conflict: Conventional Wisdom – I

- Vladimir Putin is the main cause.
- Putin is crazy or irrational.
- Putin bears marked resemblance to Hitler.
- Putin is bent on creating a greater Russia.

Causes of the Conflict: Conventional Wisdom – II

US is a benign hegemon seeking to promote European stability.

Putin's behavior proves that it was wise to expand NATO eastward, to try including Ukraine and Georgia.

Where Do We Go From Here?