

Putin's Russia versus Zelensky's Ukraine, Which Country is More Neo-Nazi?

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“Dugin’s Day Dream & Putin’s Ambitions” photo-illustration by Edward Locke.

Since the start of Russia-Ukraine conflict, Putin has made six demands for a ceasefire in Ukraine. One of them is “Ukraine must proceed to denazification and prohibition of extremist, Nazi and Neo-Nazi parties, and abolition of all laws that embellish Nazis and Neo-Nazis.” Literary, this demand is legitimate based on the precedents established by Germany. After World War Two, both East and West Germanies took strong measures to outlaw Nazi organizations. Before Russia’s invasion, the Azov Battalion, a pro-government neo-Nazi paramilitary group, massacred around 10,000 innocent ethnic Russians in Donbas; and it has been listed as a racist and terrorist organization by Simon Wiesenthal Center. In addition, Ukraine built monument of

Nazi collaborator Stepan Bandera, and destroyed monuments commemorating Soviet Army's victory over Nazism; these pro-Nazi behaviors are not acceptable to fair-minded and democratically minded people around the world. Thus, Putin's demand appears to be legitimate at first glance.

However, if we closely examine the grandiose scheme of imperialistic expansion presented by Putin's long-time advisor, Aleksandr Dugin (b. 1962, dugin@rossia3.ru), organizer of the notorious National Bolshevik Party, and the Eurasia Party; and if we watch carefully the growth of Neo-Nazi skinheads in Moscow and across Russia, we should draw a conclusion that actually, Putin's Russia is more Neo-Nazi than Zelensky's Ukraine and has no qualification to demand the latter's de-Nazification. Actually, the bloody "Special Military Operation" Putin launched against Ukraine is the logical outcome of his implementation of the Neo-Nazi agenda of Dugin in the most recent decades.

Considered as Putin's "brain," or "philosopher," Dugin is believed to be the behind-the-scene mastermind for Russia's annexation of Crimea, and invasion of Ukraine. He advocated for Ukraine to become "a purely administrative sector of the Russian centralized state," calling for an illiberal totalitarian Russian Empire to control the Eurasian Continent from Dublin to Vladivostok and to challenge "American hegemony" and "Atlanticism."

Trying to fit in the ideological void after the demise of Soviet model of communism, liberalism and democracy, Dugin wrapped himself in a cloak of Russian patriotism and Orthodox Church to sell his extremely right-wing ideologies of cultural totalitarianism, opposing the so-called Western liberalism and particularly "US hegemony," asserting that his comrades are "on the side of Stalin and the Soviet Union," wanting, as "conservatives, "a strong, solid state," "order and healthy family, positive values, the reinforcing of the importance of religion and the Church in society," "patriotic radio, TV, patriotic experts, patriotic clubs. [...] the media that expresses national interests."

Similar to all fascists in history or ultra-rightists in contemporary world scene, Dugin's thoughts are full of hatred against liberalism, accusing "liberal anti-racism" in the West of being "Western-centric and profoundly racist," "pathogenic and pathological," based on "inclusivity," i.e., not considering Russian and other cultural values as equals and worth to be included.

He is also opposed to the concept of gender equality, claiming that "to obtain real gender equality, we need to destroy the gender as such. Because the relations between man and woman are based on asymmetry, i.e. precisely on the *absence of the equality*, on the non-equality, and non-equivalence, [...] To proclaim gender equality is to destroy man and woman as such."

Dugin is equally opposed to the "liberal paradigm" of "economic growth" coupled with "sustainable development," as expounded by United Nations Secretary-General Guterres in his call to "build a better system" with "growth of societies and economies;" claiming that "the very idea of sustainable development is promoted by left liberalism and it means that the rich should take care of the poor in order to avoid proletarian revolutions and all kinds of social protests. That is the Fabian society style of political agenda. [...] The problem is the global liberal elite desperately insisting on curing all the logical disasters and crises proceeding from liberalism with more liberalism, mixed with extravagant post-modernist concepts. [...] we understand the new world order as the continuation of liberal globalization, we need not to improve and embellish it, but instead to get out of it, get rid of it – of all these idiots: Guterres, United Nations officials, and global liberal elites. They try to cure us with poison, to cure all the crises made by

domination of liberal ideology with more liberalism.” Opposition to “Fabian style” liberal, reformist and progressive political agendas? It sounds very similar to Hitler’s, Stalin’s and McCarthyites’ ways of thinking!

In terms of the fundamental compositional structure of the international system, Dugin advocated the idea of an Eurasia or Eurasianism under Russian dominance as opposed to Atlanticist world order supposedly dominated by the “corrupt, greedy and individualist” Anglo-American nations (the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand). “The current crisis is a logical result of the decay of the global liberal system, clearly under the leadership of the West. That is the way it all unfolds. It is a kind of liberal hegemony doubled by geopolitical unipolarity.”

Based on the above anti-equality and fascistic political philosophy, Dugin has theorized the foundation of a “Euro-Asian empire” capable of fighting the US-led Western world. To realize his dream of “Eurasianism,” he advocated some concrete policies of expansion and empire-building. Among these are (1) unification of all Russian-speaking peoples in a single country through the forced territorial dismemberment of the former republics of the Soviet Union; (2) “a Turkic-Slavic alliance in the Eurasian sphere” which have begun to receive attention among certain nationalistic circles in Turkey; (3) Russo-Arab alliance leading to Putin’s military intervention in Syria; (4) alliance with Iran to increase Russia’s sphere of influence in the Middle East; (5) inciting Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland to break away from the United Kingdom, and exacerbating British Isles’ historic rifts with Continental Europe to cause disintegration of European Union; (6) interference in US domestic politics by “works with a wide range of partners from all sectors of civil society,” “through grant making, advocacy and research, regional initiatives, and close engagement,” and by fomenting racial, religious and sectional divisions within the United States while promoting the United States’ isolationist factions; (7) increasing Western European countries’ dependency on cheap Russian natural resources (oil, gas and food) to cause NATO collapse from within; (8) extending Russian influence toward the Indian Ocean through stronger relations with India’s nationalistic government in New Delhi; and finally, the “Fall of China;” according to Dugin, China constitutes a threat to Russia, and thus, Russia’s ambitions in Asia will require “the territorial disintegration, splintering and the political and administrative partition of the [Chinese] state.”

For East Asia, Dugin advocated that (1) Russia should make China’s territories in Tibet, Xinjiang, Inner Mongolia, and Manchuria buffer zones; and encourage China to expand into the south, in the Indian Ocean, the Philippines, Indonesia and Australia, but not in Viet Nam, as geopolitical compensations; (2) Russia should return territories it occupied at the end of World War Two based on Yalta Agreement to Japan in order to incite anti-Americanism and to control Japanese politics; and (3) Russia should incorporate Mongolia into the Eurasian-Russian heartland. Dugin believes that Russia’s natural partner in the Far East is Japan.

The above game plan of imperialistic territorial expansionism has been mapped out in details in Dugin’s notorious 600-page book, *The Foundations of Geopolitics: The Geopolitical Future of Russia*, published in 1997, and used as a textbook in the Academy of the General Staff of the Russian military, brainwashing generations of Russian military officers with imperialist Russian nationalism. As a Russia version of Adolf Hitler’s *Mein Kampf*, Dugin’s book is aimed at creating a Russia-dominated Euro-Asian or Euro-Soviet Empire stretching from Dublin to Vladivostok, by building a Russia-Berlin Axis, a Russia-Iran Axis, and a Russia-Japan Axis;

with Europe gradually divided into Russian and German spheres of influence, with Russia to very great extent controlling Germany's energy needs.

Also in this book, Dugin lamented the "mistakes" made by Hitler's Nazi Germany and Tojo's Japanese Empire. He believed that the "wrong alliance" led by the Anglo-Saxons (United States and British Empire) won the World War Two; and that if Hitler had not invaded the Soviet Union, Britain could have been defeated and Continental Europe would have been unified, the United States would have remained at home, isolationist and divided, and that if Japan did not attack Pearl Harbor, Japan would have taken over the entire China and the rest of Asia and become Soviet Union's junior partner; and finally, Soviet Union would join with Imperial Japan and Nazi Germany to form a three-power global totalitarian empire. This global empire would dominate the entire world, instead of letting Anglo-Americans to rule the Earth till the present time. Dugin envisions a new world order based on an integrative philosophy of Hitler style National Socialism, Stalin style National Bolshevism (minus atheism and plus the religious tenets of Russian Orthodox Church) and Japanese militarism. This way of thinking is a symptom of neo-Nazism, pure and simple.

Dugin's admiration for Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan is compatible with his generally reactionary world view and pattern of thought. As a backward-looking thinker, Dugin is nostalgic about a glorious and religiously pious, traditionalist, pre-Columbian, and Medieval Europe, as opposed to the materialistic modern and post-modern "decadent" societies in Western Europe. For him, the future lies in reclaiming this past from the "liberal, commercial, cosmopolitan" present conditions often "represented by Jewish people." His anti-Semite thoughts constitute a revival of those of Adolf Hitler's "*Mein Kampf*."

In the recent years, due to Russia's poor economic performance and China's growth in economic power and influence, Dugin has stopped talking about China's territorial disintegration. Instead, He nowadays talks about "the Russian-Chinese alliance as a geopolitical alliance opposed to the Atlanticist world order;" indicating that "Nation-states cannot independently establish, secure and keep real sovereignty;" and he admits the needs to oppose the "global pressure together," and to, "on the present stage," "establish a multipolar alliance between all the powers, all the states, all the countries and civilizations fighting for their independence," as "the logical continuation of decolonization" or "liberation" from "Western hegemony" and its domineering "liberal values." Dugin's change of mind vis-à-vis China clearly is the outcome of Russia's several failed attempts to jump into the embrace of the West; feeling abandoned, cornered and threatened, the North Polar Bear is looking for a marriage of convenience called "back-to-back" and "no-cap" or unlimited "strategic partnership" with Beijing.

Dugin believes that the White House has established an anti-Chinese alliance in Asia and set up Taiwan as a blocking stone against China, with the ultimate goals of sabotaging and stopping China's economic expansion through the Belt and Road Initiative. Dugin believes that the latest meeting between Presidents Putin and Xi in Beijing at the opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics signified that Putin is serious about the Euro-Asian plan and is determined to carry it out. He indicates that the Russia-China alliance plus the combination of Russia's Euro-Asian Plan and China's Belt and Road Initiative shall signify the inevitable end of Western hegemony.

Dugin said that "The Belt & Road Initiative had started as a kind of Atlanticist project, conceived by the Chinese elite with the help of American globalists. Initially, the idea was to create a direct tie between China and Western Europe, linking together all coastal areas in order

to avoid Russia, to encircle it and cut its access to the warm seas. This is traditional geopolitics of Atlanticists. The Belt & Road Initiative started precisely as such. China considered it a very good opportunity to develop and secure its markets as well as to promote its own political and economic interests outside of China. Western globalist elites supported that, because the project *excluded* Russia. But many things have changed in recent years. First, China became so powerful, so independent, so sovereign that it began to represent a new challenge to the globalists themselves, to the West. China became the second pole. Observing China becoming more and more independent, a part of the globalist/western elite started to oppose China. We see this with Huawei, with Trump's campaign to get all Chinese assets out of the US, with the mutual closure of consulates in USA and in China. We see economic war with China. These changes have reshaped the Belt & Road Initiative in a new geopolitical context. Little by little China came to the conclusion that Russia is to be included in the Belt & Road Initiative, making it a united *Eurasianist* initiative. [...] with the growth of China and Putin's insistence on defending and strengthening Russian sovereignty, the Belt & Road Initiative was transformed into something new in the last two years. It now represents a strategy to secure Chinese and Russian independence, working together, in alliance. That was confirmed by a recent Russian and Chinese agreement. [...] Initially the BRI was supported by the West, but now, it is rather under attack. The West tries to use Japan and India in order to reduce the importance of the project, and even by trying to directly sabotage it sometimes."

Dugin tries to equate "sovereignty" with "egoism" and denies the positive role of international organizations. He claims that "Every State, taken as such, is a rival to other States. That is the very foundation of the Nation-State, an egoistic and realistic attitude. So, from the realist point of view, rivalry, competition and conflicts are always possible. [...] On the other hand, Atlanticist globalization and Western hegemony are not a realist paradigm at all. Liberalism insists that western values, the western system should dominate the world and that all national countries, nation-states should recognize international organizations led by liberals, as higher authorities. Liberalism in International Relations is precisely the idea that each country should overcome its national interests and follow a liberal agenda. Otherwise, liberals affirm that there will be war. Using the argument of rivalry, liberals try to impose their own rule on all countries. [...] No single nation-state can effectively resist the Atlanticist globalization alone. Russia, Turkey, Iran, China and other countries including India, Pakistan and many other Arab countries, African countries, and Europe itself can secure real independence only by way of creating a kind of geopolitical *Eurasian alliance*, a multipolar alliance in order to liberate all countries from this Atlanticist globalization, resisting the pressure of liberal hegemony. Russia alone could not play the role of an alternative pole to globalization and neither can China, not to mention Turkey and Iran who are regional powers. They are very strong, but regional. I think that only by working together can Russia, Turkey, China, Iran and other great countries establish a truly multipolar world order."

"I think that we are approaching the moment of the real multipolarity and that is precisely what the unipolar political liberal globalist elites do not desire," claims Dugin, in his attempt to replace the current "unipolar" world order dominated by "Western liberal elites" with a future "multi-polar" world order, "They try to find ways to avoid this necessity. Nobody among them could accept multipolarity because that would be the end for their ideological, economic, strategic, political, cultural and diplomatic domination. They will lose their dominant position in education, in culture, in technology and so on. Now, the course of history is still somehow controlled by the West, but Western elites understand more and more that the West cannot lead

the world anymore. They try to transmit this mission to Artificial Intelligence. They can use the other tricks or – very probable – start new wars or promote color revolutions. I think that life on earth is now at stake. Human nature itself is about to be replaced by some kind of post-human, post-living species. That is the real goal of the globalist world order. We need to understand it clearly and we need to resist against that threat in order to save humanity from this coming plague, because the liberal post-modern West became a kind of plague for the civilization, for all of us, for Russians, for Chinese, Iranians, Turks and for everybody else.”

Dugin next reveals his true colors as a reactionary and regressive thinker by denouncing the progressive achievements of the mankind in modern times.

“First of all, we need to develop a deeper understanding of what Western civilization really is. Western civilization was born when the West cut ties with its real traditional values. *Western civilization is based on an act of castration or suicide.* The West has cut its ties with Christianity, with Greco-Roman culture. With the Enlightenment, the West entered a totally artificial civilization based on wrong ideas – such as progress, materialism, technology, capitalism, selfishness and atheism. That was the Enlightenment – Luciferian pride, the war against the Heaven. That coincides with Western colonial expansion. Colonialism was a kind of projection of the same disease on the global scale. No civilization concentrated so much effort on the material aspect of life as the West. The Chinese discovered the powder long ago but used it in order to make beautiful fireworks. It was a kind of cultural and artist phenomena. When Europeans discovered the same gunpowder, they started immediately to kill each other and all other peoples. Western hegemony is based on disease so we should recognize the Western civilization of modernity as the pathology. Modernity is the problem, not the Western Antiquity or Middle Ages. During the Middle ages all civilizations were more or less the same. Western civilization, Islamic civilization, Chinese civilization, Indian civilization and many others coexisted. The problem began with modernity, with the so-called era of geographical discoveries, with colonization. The modern West started to occupy the planet, conquering all of humanity. The problem is the modern Western civilization that has created a kind of asymmetry between the Master and the Slave (as Hegel put it in his “Phenomenology of Spirit”). The Master was the modern West. All the humanity, all the Rest was considered to be the Slave and the tool of total domination was precisely *material power*. That was a great catastrophe. That Western expansion in the era of great geographical discoveries has destroyed the fragile balance between civilizations. This racist, colonial, imperialist nature of the West still exists in this century. Liberalism, an idea of universality of so-called human rights, gender equality and other stupidities are elements of a new version of the same racist, colonial, imperialist ideology. The West tries to impose its own values as something universal including when they criticize their own past. Modernity began with criticism of Europe’s past and present. Post-modernity tries once more to cut the ties, this time with Modernity just like the way modernity has done with pre-modernity, with the classical medieval phase in Western history. It is not new; it is a continuation of the long-lasting suicide but Western civilization tries to involve all of humanity in this process of suicide. This homicide, killing of the Other, transforming it into a “lesser self” is precisely what the modern liberal globalist West brings to all other peoples. But it is evident that the Rest, all non-Western civilizations, reject this pathological Western liberalism along with LGBT+ norms, the pretended optionality of the genders, this techno-centric, highly anti-humanist or post-humanist ways of developing technology and industry, this intolerant and totalitarian “cancel culture”. All the (non-Western) Rest that has its own civilizational basin should be united against globalism. That is the logical continuation of decolonization.

Decolonization is not finished; it has just started. And now, we experience the next wave of colonization. We are colonized with Western patterns, with Western technologies, with Western values, with Western democracies, with Western market procedures, with Western education, with Western politics of so called “liberal democracy”. All that is imposed on us as something universal, but this is pure ethnocentrism. Now, this Western civilization is in clash with all others who do not recognize themselves within Western destiny, Western history. That is the crucial moment. It is not only the manifestation of mere secondary differences between civilizations. Before the beginning of expansion of the modern West on the global scale, there were different civilizations that co-existed – more or less peacefully and harmoniously. I agree that there were some conflicts and wars and so on, but they were more or less local. The real genocidal war arrived with modernity when humans started to use technology in order to exterminate each other.”

Dugin is against universalism: “American values pretend to be universal ones. In reality, it is a new form of ideological aggression against the multiplicity of cultures and traditions still existing in the rest of the world ... Therefore, all traditionalists should be against the West and globalization, as well as against the imperialist politics of the United States.”

“The future world should be ... characterized by multiplicity; diversity should be taken as its richness and treasures, and not as a reason for inevitable conflict; many civilizations, many poles, many centers, many sets of values, on one planet and in one humanity. Many worlds.” (*The Fourth Political Theory*, 2012).

Dugin was born in 1962 into a Soviet military family and witnessed the downfall of the Soviet Union; thus, he harbors strong grievances against “American hegemony;” he combine messianic feeling with fascism, Great Russian nationalism and Chauvinism, anti-Semitism, traditionalism, anti-Globalization, anti-modernism, worship of the Holy Roman Empire, and Russian Orthodoxy, as a means to resist the West where the spirit of Christianity has in his opinion, disappeared, and to build a new political order with the power of Euro-Asian Continent at its core.

According to Dugin, there are two groups of enemies of Russia, the Fifth Column and the Sixth Column. The Fifth Column promoted the breakup of the Soviet Union by seizing power under Boris Yeltsin, and headed Russia as the ruling politico-economic and cultural elite until the 2000s, as greedy oligarchs, corrupted government officers, mass media tycoons and “liberal reformers.” Dugin believe that “it is necessary to deport the fifth column and deprive them of their citizenship,” and that opponents of Putin “should be sent to prophylactic health examination.”

The Sixth Column has been defined as "the fifth column which just pretends to be something different," those who are in favor of Putin, but demand that he stand for liberal values (as opposed to the liberal fifth column, which is specifically against Putin). According to Dugin, the whole Internet should be banned: “I think that Internet as such, as a phenomenon is worth prohibiting because it gives nobody anything good.” In June 2012, Dugin said in a lecture that chemistry and physics are demonic sciences, and that all Orthodox Russians need to unite around the president of Russia in the last battle between good and evil, following the example of Iran and North Korea. He added: "If we want to liberate ourselves from the West, it is needed to liberate ourselves from textbooks on physics and chemistry.”

When the Kremlin invited him to speak at its Anti-Orange Rally in Moscow in February 2012, Dugin made this inflammatory statement to tens of thousands: “Dear Russian people! The global

American empire strives to bring all countries of the world together under its control. They intervene where they want, asking no one's permission. They come in through the fifth column, which they think will allow them to take over natural resources and rule over countries, people, and continents. They have invaded Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya. Syria and Iran are on the agenda. But their goal is Russia. We are the last obstacle on their way to building a global evil empire. Their agents at Bolotnaya Square and within the government are doing everything to weaken Russia and allow them to bring us under total external control. To resist this most serious threat, we must be united and mobilized! We must remember that we are Russian! That for thousands of years we protected our freedom and independence. We have spilled seas of blood, our own and other people's, to make Russia great. And Russia will be great! Otherwise it will not exist at all. Russia is everything! All else is nothing!"

Dugin believes that before Western modernism destroys everything on the planet earth, the Russian people should unite Europe and Asia into a great empire appropriately ruled by Russians, because under the Anglo-American leadership, the "Atlantic Ocean Power" composed of greedy and corrupted individualists has defeated the destiny of Russia's Euro-Asian Continental Power."

Russia's aggressive mentality against Ukraine, what the North Polar Bear considers patronizingly as "Little Russia," did not start with President Putin or his advisor Dugin. Back in March 1917, following the collapse of the Czarist Empire, the Ukrainian People's Republic (UPR) was declared by democratic socialist parties that constituted the National People's Congress and the Central Council of Ukraine in Kyiv. This democratic socialist government was led by Symon Petliura, leader of the Ukrainian Social Democratic Labor Party (USDLP). At the beginning, Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin recognized the Ukrainian People's Republic, but later branded it as "bourgeois nationalist" and "reactionary," and crushed the UPR and USDLP, in 1920, with superior Russian armed forces and diplomatic maneuvering, and created in 1920 a puppet regime, the so-called "Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic" based in Kharkiv, as a founding member of the Soviet Union. From its very beginning, despite its propaganda about equality of all national or racial groups, the Soviet Union has always been, since its early years, an hegemonic state practicing Great Russian nationalistic Chauvinism, ethnic cleansing and imperialistic territorial expansionism, against Finland, Poland, and Baltic states. After World War Two, all Western colonial powers either started the process of decolonization or stop territorial expansion; but the Soviet Union was an exception; it not only annexed large pieces of land from its Eastern European satellite states, but also expanded its spheres of influence into Afghanistan, Angola, Ethiopia, Cambodia, Cuba, Nicaragua and El Salvador, often by direct military intervention or by "exporting revolution" to developing countries. Soviet troupes also crushed political reform movements in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

It appears that Putin's foreign policies in the recent decade, such as annexation of Crimea, interference in US General Election 2020 on behalf of Trump and the Republican Party, invasion of Ukraine, etc., exactly followed what were recommended by Dugin. Therefore, we can conclude that Putin's Russia is actually more Neo-Nazi than Zelensky's Ukraine. Thus, Putin's excuse of fighting the war for de-Nazification is baseless.