

A Time For Reckoning: Suggestions For The Future of U.S., E.U. Relations

By: Kevin Miller

For many decades now, arguably the better part of the 20th century and beyond the American ambassadorial relationship with France has taken on an air of misgiving, and a simple lack of decorum between the two countries, as regards the respect which the position commands within France, and French national thought. In fact at one time in the 20th century the ambassador of France to the U.S., Jusserand, was the head of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a feat which is unfathomable now.¹ Nowhere is this more clear than the rumored appointment of Anna Wintour, by the Obama Administration, to be the U.S. Ambassador to France.² Regal? Perhaps. A faux pas? Almost assuredly. This error in American intellectual understanding of the relationship between the two countries has not always existed. Indeed at the beginning of our relationship the ambassador to France was often one of the foremost of citizens in the country. Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Robert Livingston come to mind. However with the successful supplanting of France, by the United States, in their relations as first among equals, beginning in the 1910's. There has often, in my opinion, been a misunderstanding between the two nations, particularly on the American side, as to the proper

¹ Robert J. Young, *American by Degrees: The Extraordinary Lives of French Ambassador Jules Jusserand*, Found at: <https://books.google.com/books?id=wRZ0qaBldi8C&pg=PA288&dq=jules+jusserand+american+historical+association&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjPsPn83cLRAhVZHGMKHXyfAlcQ6AEIJTAC#v=onepage&q=jules%20jusserand%20american%20historical%20association&f=false>, accessed on: 1/14/16

² Devin Dwyer, ABC News, "Anna Wintour on Obama Short List For US Ambassador", At: <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/12/anna-wintour-reportedly-on-obama-short-list-for-us-ambassador/>, Accessed: 02/25/17

protocol to treat each other. Indeed the very naming of an Ambassador of first rank in the eyes not only of the American's, but also the French, has led to what I believe is in modern times, with the Presidential level faux pas incurred after the Charlie Hebdo attacks in Paris, a new nadir in the strength of the bonds of our relations between one another.³ This paper seeks not to explore and fully elucidate the various strengths and weaknesses that our relationship has had. But rather to explicate firstly the environment that not only the U.S. French relationship finds itself in, but also the United States, European Union relationship. I will do this by describing the situation as it currently exist for Russia, ISIS or Daesh, and China. In the Russian section I have decided to add additional commentary on the steps which have been taken to counter Russian Aggression, and the steps which I feel should be taken to do so. Keep in mind that these actions are particularly concrete and are separate from the section detailing the actions which are laid out for the Trump administration and should be taken by the new ambassadors in France and the E.U. an order to improve relations. After doing so I intend to offer up suggestions in the section on Cohesive And Tactical Thematics In Which To Engage The French And European Governments With. This section focuses on what issues the current Trump administration can possibly proceed on as it chooses a new ambassador to France, and the European Union. So that relations can be improved in a tangible and immediate way between the two continents. In a year which is shaping up to be a pivotal one for America, and one which one U.S. commentator described as the "most pivotal" in modern European history.⁴ The next section titled Implementing Cohesive And Tactical Thematics In Which To Engage The French And European Governments With. I

³ Julie Hirschfield Davis, [NYTimes.com](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/13/us/politics/obama-is-faulted-for-not-attending-rally-in-paris.html?_r=0), White House Acknowledges Error in Not Sending a Top Official to March in Paris, At: https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/13/us/politics/obama-is-faulted-for-not-attending-rally-in-paris.html?_r=0, Accessed: 02/25/17

⁴ Ian Bremmer, Time Magazine, December; 2016

intend on first ordering the suggestions from the previous section in order from most to least likely to succeed. I then provide a complimentary chart which allows for quick reference to which orders the subjects and labels them from most to least likely to succeed as well.

Russia

Russian Intransigence:

Russia intends on building up its military capacity rapidly despite the fact that sanctions and low crude oil prices have taken a hold of their economy. And according to Dr. Stephen J. Blank in a white paper entitled “POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA: WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR THE U.S. ARMY?” he goes on to say that:

Currently, there is a huge defense buildup that aims to spend \$716 billion between now and 2020 to make the Russian armed forces a competitive high-tech armed force, with 70 percent of its weapons being modern (whatever that category means to Moscow). Yet this system already has shown repeatedly that it cannot deliver the goods and that the attempt to remilitarize at this relatively breakneck speed (relative to other comparable powers) is failing to produce the weapons Moscow wants.⁵

Russia as recently as November of 2014 proclaimed itself as the most powerful country in the world. However development is lagging terribly behind all advanced economies and a lot

⁵ Stephen J. Blank Politics in Putin's Russia, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA: WHAT DO THEY MEAN FOR THE U.S. ARMY? p. 7-8.

of middle income countries (MIC's). In fact according to Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) has:

*projections by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development for the year 2020 (that) envisage not only China's gross domestic product as approximately four times larger than Russia's, but with India ahead of Russia as well.*⁶

When Russia and China signed an economic agreement earlier this year which stipulated oil to china for Russian rubles it was before the U.S., and E.U. had applied sanctions in response to Russia's illegal war in the Ukraine, and before the Russian separatist downed flight MH17 over Ukrainian airspace. That disaster is what ultimately led to the sanctions from the European Union and United States being applied. This is extremely important from the Russian point of view since according to the *World Bank, Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for the Russian Federation*:

*Russia's economy is dominated by natural resource extraction under-taken by a few large corporations, a concentration reflected in its output and export structures and its fiscal dependence.*⁷

⁶ Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Putin's Choice," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. XXXI, No. 2, Spring 2008, p. 109.

⁷ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA
Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013 RUSSIAN ECONOMIC REFORM 2012: "DÉJÀ VU ALL OVER AGAIN" Steven Rosefielde p. 39., World Bank, Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for the Russian Federation.

And in fact it is dominated so much so by natural resources that Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski in the Washington Quarterly goes on to stipulate that:

No wonder that the World Bank reported in 2005 that fuels, mining products, and agriculture accounted for 74 percent of Russia's total exports, while manufacturing accounted for 80 percent of Russia's total imports.⁸

This means that although Russia was once a state with a very diverse, though centrally planned economy during the cold war. The economics of today's Russia make it a state which has yet to escape the resource curse.

Russian Oil and Gas Gambit:

Russia has neo-imperial ambitions that include but are not limited to Russian dominance of the energy markets. In fact according to Robert Einhorn and Rose Gottemoeller "Russia is working actively to reinvigorate and expand its nuclear industry and its reliance on nuclear power in the decades to come. Russian technical and political benefits and opportunities under a 123 agreement"⁹, And "These reform efforts are in line with Russia's broader energy strategy—to expand Russia's global role as an energy provider, along with Russian technical and political benefits and opportunities under a 123 agreement."¹⁰ Though the 123 agreement was meant to

⁸ Zbigniew Brzezinski, "Putin's Choice," The Washington Quarterly, Vol. XXXI, No. 2, Spring 2008, p. 109.

⁹ The U.S.-Russia Civil Nuclear Agreement
A Framework for Cooperation, Robert Einhorn Rose Gottemoeller, p.35, May 2008

¹⁰ The U.S.-Russia Civil Nuclear Agreement A Framework for Cooperation, Robert Einhorn Rose Gottemoeller, p.35, May 2008

expand commercial ties between the U.S. and Russia's civilian nuclear sectors, these plans have presumably been put on hold. This is due to the downing of MH-17, and Russian intransigence in the Ukraine. An equally contentious area of conflict derives from the fact that Russia inherited a gas pipeline infrastructure that transports gas to Europe across territories that are now independent states, mainly Ukraine and Belarus. As Gazprom got locked into pricing conflicts with such transit states (such as Ukraine), it rapidly discovered that its own highly lucrative export to the European Union could be held hostage. Deliveries of gas to Ukraine could, for example, not be shut down without also shutting down deliveries to EU member states. The conclusion that the transit states must be sidelined was done by building bypass pipelines such as the Nord Stream, which already transports gas directly from Vyborg in Russia to Greifswald in Germany, and the South Stream, which is to transport gas from the Caspian Basin via the Black Sea to south-eastern Europe. Both Poland and the Baltic states responded vehemently to what they viewed as a project designed to shut down their energy supplies without disrupting the flow to Germany.¹¹ All of this is going on while according to the Clingendael International Energy Programme, a European Think Tank, "In 2012 Russia exported 7.2 million barrels per day of *total liquids*. The vast majority of Russian exports (84 percent) went to Europe. Russia thus is dependent on the European market, although it is increasingly diverting crude oil exports to Asia, while also refining more crude at home so it can export more value added products."¹²

¹¹ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER PUTIN 2.0: WILL PETRODOLLARS SUFFICE TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT? Stefan Hedlund, p.99, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

¹² Fact Sheet Russia-Europe: the liquid relationship often overlooked, pg.2, Clingendael International Energy Programme

So then when we see the combination of Russia invading Ukraine while simultaneously threatening the rest of Europe with artificial energy shortages these are part of “Russia’s neo-imperial project [that] no longer relies on Soviet-era instruments, such as ideological allegiance, military control, or the implanting of proxy governments. Instead, the primary goal is to exert pre-dominant influence over the foreign and security policies of immediate neighbors so they will either remain neutral or support Russia’s international agenda.¹³ There is also a implied threat to Europe as a whole since the reins of energy transit, and production rest squarely with the Russian bad actors.

Gazprom may have thought that Liquefied natural gas (LNG) could be safely ignored. It is expensive and does not offer control to the extent that pipelines do. The shale gas revolution, or simply the “shale gale,” changed all that. Following years of massive investment by Qatar, in particular in export terminals for LNG, and by the United States in import terminals for the same, the United States suddenly was no longer in need of imported gas. With its import terminals standing idle, LNG was instead rerouted to Europe, where a gas glut emerged. Gazprom suffered doubly, both from a loss of market shares to the cheaper LNG and from having to agree to demands from its customers that oil-price linkage must give way to spot-market pricing.¹⁴ And also according to Stefan Hedlund “...by far the greatest challenge both to Gazprom and to Russia

¹³ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, RUSSIA AS A POLE OF POWER: PUTIN’S REGIONAL INTEGRATION AGENDA, Janusz Bugajski, p. 175, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

¹⁴ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER PUTIN 2.0: WILL PETRODOLLARS SUFFICE TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT? Stefan Hedlund, p.104-105, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

is the arrival of “unconventional gas,” notably shale gas, which has caused a complete change of scenes.”¹⁵

Russia needs to accept that the environment that they operate in is not the same as the one the Tsar's or even the soviet autocrats maneuvered in. this begins with recognizing the overwhelming priority among a plethora of things that must be done is to diversify the economy. After 15 years of the Vladimir Putin-Dmitry Medvedev tandem, Russia's economy depends more on hydrocarbons that it did in 1999. Russia now needs a price of somewhere between \$110 and \$130 per barrel of oil to balance its budget. If the price of oil were to drop to \$80 per barrel (as of this writing it hovers around \$45/barrel), the (Russian) Reserve Fund would last (one) 1 year.¹⁶ However (t)he most serious obstacles are corruption and self-interest in the political system, educational and research institutions, and Russia's epistemic communities.¹⁷

Russia in Ukraine: Choices and Consequences

One thing is for certain there are indeed Russian forces on a third “Southern” front in Ukraine, and these forces consist of tanks, heavy artillery, and multiple rocket launchers. The following is a list of choices and the consequences of these choices which the President, in my

¹⁵ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER PUTIN 2.0: WILL PETRODOLLARS SUFFICE TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT? Stefan Hedlund, p.103, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

¹⁶ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, AUTHORITARIANISM AND MODERNIZATION IN RUSSIA: IS RUSSIA KA-PUTIN? Harley Balzer p.126-127, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

¹⁷ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, AUTHORITARIANISM AND MODERNIZATION IN RUSSIA: IS RUSSIA KA-PUTIN? Harley Balzer, p.127, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

opinion, should keep in mind when looking forward to the future of American-Russo-European relations.

- **The First Choice:** The first choice is that he can reassure NATO allies of the U.S.'s commitment to their security under the NATO umbrella and help the Ukrainian army monetarily an order to have them stand up and defend themselves against the Russian incursion.
- **The Problem:** This choice is probably the most tempting and least chaotic of the choices in the short term but is flawed on two principles. The first is that by not directly engaging Russia with forces on the ground, or in the air this avenue seeks to only embolden the Russian threat to other eastern European countries (including Georgia) and create tangible geo-political space for China to begin "settling" its claims on south china sea islands, as well as Taiwan. This option is also flawed since by emboldening Russia we are drawing China, and Russia closer together and allowing for other nation states to be scared into seeing them as a viable alternative to the American world order. This option pulls its weight however since were able to show that we will protect NATO allies by not actually putting anything on the line (besides money) also by taking a wait and see approach were able to test Russian resolve as they engage in battle against a far inferior but scrappy nonetheless opponent on their own border.

- The Second Choice: provide American weaponry and support to the Ukrainian government.
- The Problem: this choice is flawed on multiple fronts since by providing weaponry to the Ukrainian's from the U.S. or even from other allies this precipitates a long held belief in the West about the Ukraine that there is a "hole" in their "weaponry pocket". That is to say whatever we give them expect to end up fully intact and capable in the hands of Russia, China, and anyone else who has the funds to acquire such technology. And even when not fully functional from battlefield use, these machines of war can be reversed engineered by the Russians and Chinese and could then end up on future battlefields against the United States, or its allies.
- The Third Choice: Bomb Russian positions with U.S. drones and warplanes.
- The Problem: This choice requires the sort of intestinal fortitude that few in Washington currently have. This choice would have the dimensions of a game of chicken to it. This is because the Russians have capabilities far beyond any enemy we have faced down since the end of the cold war including battleships in black sea ports. So by cherry picking what we would bomb there's no guarantee that the Russians would likewise cherry pick only drones, and planes, and besides this idea puts our fighting men and women at great

risk for little reward. Though it is a choice that truly displays the resolve of our capabilities to our allies throughout the world, however there are better less dangerous ways of doing this.

- The Fourth Choice: Deploy a NATO contingent to Kiev.
- The Problem: this choice to me actually seems like a good idea since we could display resolve and comfort allies, without actually doing anything. Though by drawing a line in the sand for Russia to cross we are daring them to siege it, the reckoning on this idea should be that if they were willing to go all the way to Kiev now, that means they were going to attack it anyway so it's a good thing that were already here.
- The Fifth Choice: do nothing and call for Russia's ouster from the U.N. Security Council before the opening of the U.N. General Assembly.
- The Problem: this choice though lacking in muscularity is actually a robust version of diplomacy. This is a choice that I can get behind if only because Russia shot MH-17 out of the sky and is bound to do something similar though I can't say that this choice, and this choice alone will comfort our allies in the region.

- The Sixth Choice: Hold NATO exercises on Russia's border with fellow NATO allied countries.
- The Problem: this is a choice that the administration has already made and though I can't see it paying dividends of peace, I do agree with the strategy if only to buy some time in the short and long term.

America: An Indictment of Russia

Since the early 2000's Russia has gone out of its way to make life harder for the United States anyway it knew how. The following is an indictment of the Russian federation and their leadership when it comes to their engagement with the world and how they have manipulated situation after situation to strengthen their own hand and leave in their wake death destruction and questions of why these things are being done by supposed "responsible partners":

- In the early 2000's throughout to Col. Qaddafi's ouster then President Vladimir Putin supplied small arms and ammunition to the Libyan dictator. He then in turn supplied these weapons to rebels in Sierra Leone and to Liberian dictator Charles Taylor during

their respective civil wars; for conflict diamonds. These wars in turn killed and maimed millions and displaced millions more.

- Vladimir Putin has been accused of assisting Victor Bout in his arms sales around the world which totaled in excess of \$1 Billion. These arms later fueled tensions and wars in Kashmir, Thailand, armed the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and started wars in Central African Republic, and Congo among others.
- Vladimir Putin has been accused of funneling monies and arms to the sons of Col. Qaddafi and fomenting terrorism in Nigeria, and Mali via Boko Haram, violence in Central African Republic, and South Sudan, Uganda, as well as the conflicts in the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Somaliland, and Kenya).
- Vladimir Putin it has been proved supplied Russian made S-300 surface to air missiles to the Bashar al-Assad regime in which helped to further strengthen his hold on the country, and give him the confidence that he needed an order to gas his own people indiscriminately with Saran and VX nerve agents.

- In the summer of 2008 Vladimir Putin gave the go ahead to his forces to invade another sovereign country (Georgia) an order to prevent them from moving closer to their western allies, in violation of international law.
- Under his direct orders Vladimir Putin had Aleksander Litvenenko Poisoned, and killed him with Polonium 210, an irradiated substance in London, a case for which still nobody has been brought to justice.
- Also under his direct orders Vladimir Putin Poisoned Victor Luschenko a Ukrainian former President while he was campaigning against the Kremlin's wishes to become President. No one has been brought to justice for this crime against humanity either.
- In July of 2014 a Malaysian Airliner that had departed Holland en route to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was shot down by Russian backed Ukrainian Dissidents over eastern Ukraine killing all 298 on board.

When taken as a whole these actions prove that Vladimir Putin poses a grave risk to the international community and these actions must be taken as the way that new Russia acts. And since we're dealing with a new potent and growing threat then it must be contained, indeed

isolated as part of a larger vision to secure the international community against international terrorist like the Russians. That is why the only actions which make sense at this point are to declare Russia as an international sponsor of terrorism. And also to work with the UN to suspend at least temporarily if not permanently the Russian Federations Permanent seat with veto powers on the U.N. Security Council.

America: Courting Russian Isolation

in the year 2015, president Obama made an equivocation that he would “Court” isolation for Russia over its pariah status due to the crisis in Ukraine. Less than six months later he finally got the opportunity to completely isolate Russia from the international community. With the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 by Russian equipped Ukrainian rebels using a Russian made SA-11 surface to air missile launcher. Russia has been coming tantalizingly close to becoming a pariah state without actually being designated so. That’s not to say that they have not done good things in the interim whether it be Iranian nuclear talks, Syria chemical weapons destruction, or even the timely supplying of Iraq with soviet made Sukhoi fighter jets. But when those 298 civilians in Malaysian air MH17 fell from the sky in a blazing inferno, well the tape on the entire newscasts spoke for itself.

The tragedy is worse enough be it on purpose or not but for Russian television to insist that Ukraine was aiming for President Vladimir Putin's plane, but accidentally hit the Malaysian Air flight this to me is arrogance on the level of courting war. In 2008 Russia thought that it could turn war on and off with Georgia like a water faucet. But that war (which was began by the Russians) was not stopped by them but rather by the fast wheeling and dealing diplomacy of the Bush administration. So then now fast forward to immediately following the Sochi Olympics in 2014 and Russia intervenes in Ukrainian politics by sending in masked gun men to foment revolution amongst the mostly Russian speaking citizens of eastern Ukraine, and Crimea. Again Russia treats this war as though they can turn it on and off as they wish. I'm here to tell you today that Russia may be able to control their variables when it comes to starting a war, but nowhere by no one is it possible to control the variables that will end a war, at a place and time of their choosing.

So then the logical question at that point was what is next? The first thing the U.S. did was start by sending in American Special Forces that worked alongside presumably Ukrainian Special Forces to safely and quickly surveil the crash site which stretches some five miles. They also did well to secure a route of safe passage for the Dutch equivalent of the NTSB, FBI, and international organizations that need to get to the crash site to conduct investigations. After the wreckage had been secured and every one of import to the investigation no longer needed to be there the U.S. then began to gain the popular support which is needed to not only defeat the Russian incursion into Ukraine, but also to isolate Russia on the world stage. Russia as of late has become a State Sponsor of Terrorism. This is evidenced by its explicit support of Bashar al-Assad's Syrian regime. As well as the implicit support of the Ukrainian separatist fighting the

legitimate Ukrainian government. This represents a grave and growing threat to the United States of America and its allies. By labeling the Russian Federation a state sponsor of terrorism this would have in my estimation allowed for the U.S. and its European allies to impose stricter sanctions on Russia and its public private entities. This is the first step towards isolation of Mr. Putin and his allies, and the making of Mr. Putin into a pariah. Additionally if the U.S. under the Obama administration had announced at the United Nations during the opening of the General Assembly this summer that the United States along with its allies are going to be taking steps at the U.N. to, barring a change in leadership, remove Russia first temporarily then permanently from the U.N. security council. This is a step that in my estimation is not wholly unwarranted, though under current rules at the Security Council and United Nations, highly unlikely.

I think that these are the most prudent steps that we can take short of war. Russia cannot and will not be allowed to shoot down commercial airliners as it wishes. These are extremely dangerous times and with Russia actively engaging in preventing the U.S. from ameliorating the conditions in countries in the Middle East to Europe this is something that cannot and shall not be accepted. I pray for those that were aboard MH17 as well as their family members and I also pray that may God have mercy upon Vladimir Putin's soul for equipping the Ukrainian dissidents with technology that can blow a Boeing 777 filled with close to three-hundred people out of the sky.

Russian Privateering in the Developing World

“Insecurity linked to armed conflict remains one of the greatest obstacles to human development. It is both a cause and consequence of mass poverty.”¹⁸

When the United States unceremoniously dethroned Qaddafi, a dictator of unimaginable brutality, a people were finally free to choose their own destiny. And the Russians lost one of their largest arms smugglers in Africa. After all it was Qaddafi who, with the help of the Russians, imported massive amounts of Kalashnikov rifles and rocket propelled grenades among other panoply of war. These were given to Qaddafi at a steeply discounted price. Qaddafi in turn sold these weapons to rebels and the governments which were trying to quell their rebellions at enormous markups. We know this because of the serial numbers that accompanied the weapons (as well as the story of Viktor Bout, a Russian Arms dealer). By the time the 2000's had come around war was endemic in large swaths of Africa (Sierra Leon, Liberia, Cote D'Ivoire, Central African Republic, etc.)¹⁹, and Qaddafi had created his own veritable cottage industry. This cycle of weaponry for diamonds and gold came to a screeching halt when in the summer of 2011 Qaddafi was killed in a brutal manner by the people that he oppressed for over 40 years. This weapons vacuum which has yet to be completely filled by any one entity has left the Russians with few options to make up the surge the likes of which was found in Qaddafi, until Syria arrived.

¹⁸ United Nations Development Programme, *Human Development Report 2005: International Co-operation at a Crossroads*, 2005, New York: UNDP, pp. 151–154.

¹⁹ *The Usual Suspects*, Global Witness, March 2003, pp. 3-4

Syria acts as one of the most successful conduits of Russian weapons systems and small arms since the end of the Cold War. By most estimates Bashar al-Assad has purchased in excess of \$1 billion in weaponry from Russia since the wars beginning, and has borrowed an estimated \$800 billion in total from Russia, and other nefarious state actors, as his economy lies in ruins. If this is any indication of how sales are going in the broader Middle East, and Africa alone, business must be good indeed. The strategic interest in Tartus, a sea port, for the Russians can't be discounted; however the amount of prestige that they have expended on Al-Assad could come at a price even heavier than the Russians can handle down the road.

They can find new end markets outside the North Africa and the Middle East (MENA) region however sanctions and emerging super powers such as China make that a difficult proposition. Russia recently stated as its goal to become the world's largest arms supplier, supplanting the United States. And though statements such as that come as a welcome respite to African despots, guerilla insurgents, and petty tyrants, I'm sure that when that was read aloud in the West a collective rolling of the eyes was no doubt the first reaction in their respective capitals. Assessments aside, the current negotiations in the Security Council, for a use of force measure to be included in the currently debated resolution needs a proper amount of leverage an order to arm twist the Russians to agreeing to it. That's why I propose that the U.S. in concert with its allies find a way to impede Russian arms sales not just in Syria, but throughout the world. Algeria has \$5.2 billion in pending orders with the Russians if they can somehow be persuaded to cancel, postpone, or possibly even renege on prior agreements and buy European weaponry, that would go a long way in this arm twisting business with minimal effort. One point of cooperation which may convince the Russians to cut their losses is the proposed North

Korean-South Korean Pipeline or PNG. This pipeline would supply gas to South Korea from Russia via North Korea; its worth is estimated at \$100 billion dollars. This is just one of the examples of how U.S.-Russian cooperation can be fruitful for both sides.

The conclusion is this: Russia must not be allowed to make a mockery of the international order, indeed international norms and common law. If we hope to prevent al-Assad's mass graves and prevent the sort of internecine conflict that we've seen in Sierra Leone for instance, a la Qaddafi, we must be prepared to confront the Russians at all stages of statecraft and persuade the world to reject Putin's autocratic bent in favor of a more prescient and tangible American path. While at the same time it's also important to understand that cooperation is possible between the two powers but only when by working hand in hand and not pitting one against the other can we make the world a safer place for all of God's creations.

Russia in Syria: A New Awakening

If the goal of the United States involvement in Iraq, and Syria is to defeat ISIS and bring peace and stability to the region, all while maintaining a predominant position in Middle Eastern affairs. It would seem that by Russia's recent incursion into Syria, an order to prop up President Bashar al-Assad the United States options have dwindled. And while it is true that the Russians have somewhat limited the coalitions options, and are rightfully so a force to be reckoned with, the idea that the United States has completely run out of options is simply a fallacy. When Russia began its incursion the first thought that came in my head was that this was probably the end of

major American involvement in the affairs of Syria and Iraq, at least for the time being. It also occurred to me that Russia is trying to make a strong play for power and prestige in the region—indeed the world, and was largely successful at it. It also struck me as a rather naïve move that Russia, a waning power by all accounts, but a power no less was making what I would consider a blunder of historical proportions. Yet with all their inanity they had won the day in Syria. I expected for the U.S. to withdraw eventually if not immediately from the battlefield and perhaps leave things to the Turks to take care of. However upon closer inspection I realized that the Russians, whom are under a lot of pressure economically couldn't keep up this breakneck pace of events indefinitely. I was right. The Russians got to Syria and immediately began bombing rebel factions friendly to the Coalition such as Tajammu Alezzah, and the Free Syrian Army (FSA). And though they struck Islamic State positions as well, the damage was done, the goodwill which was afforded them by the international community at the beginning of the campaign, was squandered fighting forces which only immediately threatened Assad's positions in the west of the country. The Russians by doing so have opened up what I believe to be two lanes of opportunity for the U.S. and its coalition partners. The first lane that I believe that has been opened up by the recent fighting is the idea of being able to counter Russia's influence in the Baltic by now moving men and military materiel into the Baltic states an order to work as a bulwark against further Russian aggression. Indeed the United States, and its European Partners, in December of 2016, did deploy troops and matériel to Russia's Western border with Europe. And the Russians countered by fomenting a feigned populist uprising in Kosovo soon thereafter. As of now however, the European continent couldn't be more decisive in their discontent with Russian policies not only in Syria, but the added on effect of Ukraine and the greater Baltic's as

well. By moving troops into one or more of the occidental countries in the Baltic's The United States and its Allies in Europe have garnered praise from Latvian, and other Eastern European allies. By providing safety from further Russian aggression, which is exactly the reason why I feel we should continue to do such things.

The idea that Russia has somehow limited the amount of options for the U.S. and its coalition with the capture of Aleppo is not wholly true. By balancing Russian air power with U.S. air power, we help to relieve the stress on U.S. Syrian coalition land assets. Also by leveraging the Iraqi army to take the fight to the enemy, We can assure the eventual destruction of Islamic State, and continue the marginalization of the Syrian government and Russia as well.

If a cold war is truly beginning to develop between the United States and Russia, then it seems to me that it would prudent to expect the worst case scenario, as far as Russian intentions are concerned. We as a nation cannot allow ourselves to fall prey to Russian coercion in any part of Europe. The situation in Donetsk and Crimea is unacceptable. We must counter Russian aggression with robust plans for the long haul in Eastern Europe. With Russia's incursion into Syria and the subsequent blowback throughout the world to their actions we must seize this opportunity to affect change in the European countenance toward Russia. At no time since the end of the cold war has there been such unity in Europe against Russia. This does not mean that Russian aggression toward the rest of Europe will abate on its own. Quite the contrary, if we are to see meaningful change in Russia's disposition which can carry us through many generations of good will and comity between the U.S. and Russia, then we must prepare to defend Eastern Europe from the grave and growing threat of Russian intransigence. It is imperative on

America's part to gain the upper hand, and initiative where we can, and when we can, as regards Russia.

The idea of the Phase Adaptive Approach, or PAA is not new with regard to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). However the idea of if or where we should deploy it has been under debate for some time. The threat of nuclear war coming from North Korea, or a belligerent China is real and we must do all we can to protect ourselves from such an attack. In terms of a ballistic missile threat on our pacific coast from said states I believe that it is secure. As we've unfurled PAA an order to counter threats in the world from nuclear capable states we have also run into strong opposition not just from our enemies but from our allies as well. For our allies their idea of PAA has changed dramatically with Russia's increasingly bellicose maneuvers. In recent months and years however the threat of so called hybrid warfare has increased exponentially from Russia. This is why I'm proposing that we consult with our allies and friends in the Baltic's an order to negate the threat that Russia poses to Europe, both conventionally, and strategically. By speeding up the process through which the PAA is adopted by nations we can better get a handle on the unique threat which Russia now poses to the region.

It must not end with simply installing radar and deploying SDI to the requisite regions an order to counter Russian ballistic missile threat in Europe. But we must also work to deploy tactical and strategic conventional military assets an order to balance Russia's significant influence, through coercion in Europe. And while the idea of defending Europe with weaponry is important it's also important to realize that weaponry alone will not allow America a free hand in its defense affairs. It was not long ago that Ukraine and the rest of Europe were caught flat footed

when Russia decided to no longer deliver vital liquefied natural gas (LNG) deposits to Europe in the winter by shutting off its pipelines. This is a situation which must not be allowed to subsist. This is why I'm recommending today that we build a pipeline to Europe across the North Atlantic Sea. By opening U.S. oil and LNG to Europe we can thereby affect a strategic advantage over Russia. By doing this we allow for a more even playing field by creating parity between Europe and Russia when it comes to economic and diplomatic issues. This is not the end of the road, but by taking these first steps, and more, I believe that we just might get there.

ISIS

ISIS : What needs to be done?

If ever there were a time for reflection it would be at this crucial time. Though granted ISIS is not entirely defeated in Iraq, they are on the run. And with Syria now looming as a possible battlefield it is appropriate to take a breather from what has just happened, recollect our thoughts, and move forward from there. However it's also wise to perhaps decide not to pursue ISIS into Syria either partially or wholly, if that is the said path that the President chooses to take. If the President chooses to assist Iraqi forces in their fight against ISIS into Syria the inevitable

question is what will America's role be, almost assuredly airstrikes, but what about boots on the ground?

With ISIS in peril and al-Baghdadi injured it only makes sense to take the fight to them. This is true. But also it is true that we would be entering Syria as uninvited and unwanted guest of a regime that we once contemplated airstrikes against. And also with Ar-Raqqa being the unofficial hometown of ISIS it seems to make sense that we would then be fighting them on battlefields that are wholly familiar to them while unique to us.

ISIS is in desperate straits right now if the rumors of al-Baghdadi's injuries are true, then it seems that his health is the paramount concern of them at this point. I liken al-Baghdadi to the khanate in the 13th century: if al-Baghdadi dies the whole enterprise will be in jeopardy since he is their leader and figure head, so if he were to die I could envision a sort of splitting of the khanate into smaller fiefdoms and these would in turn fight one another to exhaustion. But make no mistake about it al-Baghdadi dead represents a ceasing of all hostilities against the Iraqis and Kurds since he is their main strategist and tactician, and also the group's main fundraising and recruitment draw. Without a doubt without him there is no longer an ISIS as we know them today. This is why his death should be the main objective of U.S. and Kurdish/Iraqi forces in Syria.

Also there should be a discussion about ISIS and what type of weaponry they have. After all for all we know al-Baghdadi could have chemical weaponry and be making Ar-Raqqa his last stand, much akin to Adolf Hitler in Berlin. Except for in this instance it would be one last release of

Saran nerve agent that kills not only him, but the good soldiers that have him surrounded and would hope to see his reign come to an end.

Terror could also come from the sky. As uninvited guest in Bashar al-Assad's country, the idea of him bombing or dog fighting our forces is a very real predicament. It would behoove the Iraqi's as well as the U.S. if we could get assurances from the Syrian regime that they will not be malevolent proprietor's while we are in northern Syria finishing off ISIS.

As to the idea of the U.S. personally assisting the fight against ISIS with "boots on the ground" I personally wouldn't recommend it if only since that would entail a lot of moving around of pieces which would waste precious time. Why wait to kill al-Baghdadi when the Iraqi's along with American military advisers can do it all by themselves, with airstrikes in tow of course. If it does come down to sending in boots to help the Iraqi's annihilate ISIS it would to me seem more prudent to send in mercenaries from America. This would prevent a heavy military footprint and also it would allow for us to be engaged in the fighting without the risk to our professional military soldiers.

If it comes to a point where al-Baghdadi closes ranks around his self in Ar-Raqqa or any other city in Syria while he attempts to convalesce it would be prudent to siege the town rather than trying to take it outright. This is because it would be difficult for military intelligence to crack that nut, if you will, considering the fierce loyalty that he inspires. What makes more sense is to starve them out of their hidey holes and frustrate all plans that they hatch to try and get out of the city with al-Baghdadi in tow an order to live to fight another day.

To defeat ISIS our number one objective should be to kill al-Baghdadi. I cannot stress enough how important he is to this particular enterprise and what his death will mean for them. Simply put they cannot and will not function without him thus negating the need for a heavy footprint in the region and rather having the threat implode upon itself triggered by the price of oil. With Oil hovering around \$44 a barrel and as reported by CNN the town of Kobani back fully in Kurdish hands, it's easy to see a path forward from here. The fact that ISIS, who derives most of their income from oil revenue would have to deal with a black market price of \$10-\$20 per barrel of oil extracted, that in itself is enough to box the in the organizations ambitions and possibly see the top leadership implode from the bottom up. I don't think that I can stress this enough: if ISIS were to lose their confidence in al-Baghdadi and he were to be eliminated by us or someone in the organization, this would spell the end of ISIS as we now know them today, a blow akin to the death of Osama Bin Laden for al-Qaeda and extremist everywhere. In the next section I explicate what a defeated ISIS will look like.

There has been much debate over what the future of the Post-Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, or ISIS world will look like. The general consensus in the intelligence community, and outside analyst is that once the Caliphate which has its center in Ar-Raqqa, Syria; and Mosul, Iraq; the group will morph into a highly skilled, highly mass media fluent terrorist diaspora. They go on to say that ISIS will become a smattering of nodes or terrorist cells which will have some visibility amongst each other, but will for the most part operate independently from one another, causing death and mayhem at random and with little to no external prompt. I, however take a contrarian view. For multiple reasons If you'll indulge me.

The most glaring reason which I think should be under more careful consideration is the quality of life expected for a lot of these ISIS fighters. Most were probably living in the lap of despotism. That is to say extreme luxury, with amorality the likes of which, with the liberation of parts of Mosul, were only now beginning to comprehend, and fully appreciate. I think we've all heard the media reports, and by all accounts their true. Sex Slaves, Torture, Hedonism, Sexual Amorality, Sadism, the list of deadly sins committed is endless. So then where does one go to when he has perverted his mind to the degree that he's no longer comfortable living in a polite society? Certainly not the United States, or France, or Britain, or anywhere else in Europe for that matter. The fact remains that these young men, and they are mostly young men have so pursued ideals of escapism that they no longer would feel comfortable in a "normal" society. Their behavior would make them stick out like a sore thumb to any domestic intelligence agency.

Money is also a factor in their decision making. As I said earlier they have been living in luxury, a lifestyle they could have only dreamed of in the West. This leads me to believe that most of them will decide to cut ties with the group and hoard as many resources as possible before departing the self declared caliphate. While others will simply decide to either kill themselves or go down fighting for the caliphate till the very end.

Also look at the amount of social media traffic which has declined precipitously beginning with the death of Jihadi John late last year. Western intelligence agencies have begun to infiltrate and intercept the communications and online traffic which reached its pinnacle in the Summer of 2015. This has led to a decrease in traffic, but also the successful military missions

against the Islamic State in not only Syria, and Iraq, but also Libya and other parts of Asia, and Africa. These battlefield successes have led to not only a marked decrease in social media presence for ISIS, but also a failure to recruit indigenous, and foreign fighters.

Another reason I see the former ISIS terrorist not conforming to this model is I think that a lot of them genuinely believed in the mission of the caliphate, they genuinely saw Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi as the source of their salvation. In short a lot of them were just lost souls looking for someone who believed in them. This leads me to believe something I alluded to earlier that they would rather go down fighting for something, and someone that they truly believed in rather than return to a housing project in London, or government subsidies in Paris, France. And for those that are captured on the battlefield and held in detention under lengthy sentences it may still exist, but only in their hearts.

So then, while I would like to agree with the consensus of the U.S. intelligence community that the Islamic State will grow and metastasize into something wholly different, but still just as dangerous as the current situation we have. I must demure and draw the conclusion that once the Islamic State ceases to exist on the map, there will be no room for it to continue either here in America, Europe, or elsewhere in the world.

China

Chinese Ascendancy on the World Stage:

In the Soviet era Russia at least had an achievement gap with the rest of the world including China however the Soviet Union's highly uneven achievements in education, science, and technology are being dissipated, and it will be exceptionally difficult to reverse the decline.²⁰ And ...in the 1950s, the Chinese copied the Soviet Union's education and science institutions quite closely. Yet in just 3 decades, the Chinese have overtaken Germany and Japan to rank second to the United States in publishing articles in international peer-reviewed scientific journals. Russian scientists in 2010 published about the same number of articles in international journals as they did in 1990.²¹

Earlier it was discussed that Russia had to kowtow to demands that the price of oil and gas in Europe be tied to spot market pricing. The new oil deal that correlates with the price of the ruble could mean that though the size of the deal helps assure Chinese stability, the Russians may in

²⁰ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, AUTHORITARIANISM AND MODERNIZATION IN RUSSIA: IS RUSSIA KA-PUTIN? Harley Balzer, p. 126, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

²¹ POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, AUTHORITARIANISM AND MODERNIZATION IN RUSSIA: IS RUSSIA KA-PUTIN? Harley Balzer, p. 126, Stephen J. Blank Editor December 2013

the end; receive a raw deal in the exchange of oil for rubles with China. The Ruble is lower because the U.S. and E.U. along with an implicit nod from the rest of the world have utterly destroyed the Russian economy. They've done this by utilizing sanctions, and isolating Russia economically, politically and militarily.

This has led Russia to seek out other more dubious partners leading them into the hands of the Peoples Republic of China. However the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is ascendant in the region and much of Asia, and Africa. This has the potential to cause much friction in the relationship between the China and Russia, as the regional super powers project and jockey for hegemonic status in the coming years.

With over 10 million private cars today, China imported approximately 40 percent of its oil in 2005. By 2020, China is projected to have 120 million private cars and to import at least 60 percent of its oil. According to projections put out by the Energy Information Administration, that percentage would be closer to 75%, with only 3.5 million bpd being produced, while demand is supposed to reach 14.2(million bpd).²² As Russia enters what is in all probability a recession in their economy due to sanctions, China will begin to cement the exact terms of their historic oil and gas agreement just as oil prices begin to ebb all throughout the world. This I find in particular will become a strong point of contention between the two powers. For you see as per the agreed upon terms of the initial contract the Russians will be paid in rubles. This means that a strong Dollar pegged Yuan will not fit the bill but instead a Yuan-Ruble conversion will take place further cheapening the price that China pays for Russian oil and gas.

²² Rupert Wingfield-Hayes, "China's Thirst for Oil Gets into Top Gear," *Alexander's Gas & Oil Connections*, volume 9, issue # 20, 14 Oct 2004, BBC News, 1 October 2004, <http://www.gasandoil.com/goc/news/h_nts_left.htm> (7 Dec 2004) and "Jane's Sentinel Security Assessment," 12 January 2005.

(A)ccording to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), China's oil demand will reach 14.2 million bpd by 2025. That same year, net imports are expected to reach 10.9 million bpd. China's oil demand is already a significant factor in world oil markets. Over the past four years, China, the world's second largest oil consumer behind the United States, has been the source of close to 40 percent of the total world oil demand growth over the past four years. With economic growth running at a rate of roughly nine percent per year China is no longer able to meet its own consumption requirements through its domestic production of oil and it is now being forced to search for oil elsewhere.²³

Economic ties between Russia and China have undeniably played a major role in strengthening cooperation between the two, but there is an increasing ideological element to Sino-Russian relations. In spite of vastly different historical and cultural backgrounds, there are striking similarities between the maturing ideological foundations that underpin the two countries' respective outlooks on the world and their global roles.²⁴

*What China says may not be a full reflection of what it actually thinks and intends. Certainly, no Western strategy document or force plan has ever met this test, or generally come close to meeting it. It does, however, at least set the stage.*²⁵ China in my estimation will reach a critical

²³ . China's Oil Rush in Africa, IAGS.org, Cindy Hurst, p.3, July 2006

²⁴ Chinese Soft Power and Its Implications for the United States Competition and Cooperation in the Developing World, releveraging U.S. power amid sino-russian rapprochement Andrew C. Kuchins, p.118, editor Carola McGiffert March 2009

²⁵ Chinese Military Modernization and Force Development Main Report, Dr. Anthony Cordesman, CSIS, Revised 2006

mass and will attempt to “do something” about the issues of Formosa (Taiwan) and the various island disputes in the eastern pacific. Indeed just recently news reports have surfaced of China reclaiming islands in the South China Sea. By doing so the Chinese have blocked shipping lanes, built “thousands”²⁶ of acres of landing strips, and caused an international crisis. This incident is similar to the level of challenge that I have been warning here in this paper that would provoke the possibility of confrontation between a regional power and a super power, namely China, and the United States; though I don’t think that this issue rises to the level of magnitude that would be required for China to be openly and rightfully faced down. Once all attempts have been frustrated and America’s resolve has been tested this will be an embarrassment for the PLA and they will need to “do something” to assert that they are still (as they believe) the most dominant actor in Asia... this I believe are the fruits of the Sino-Soviet war.

Chinese Strategic Culture

The focus of most studies of strategic culture is on continuity of state behavior.²⁷China’s Rapid ascent both militarily and economically has been well documented. Indeed according to the Defense Departments, Annual Report to Congress on Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China: The People’s Republic of China (PRC) continues to pursue a long-term, comprehensive military modernization program designed to improve its armed forces’ capacity to fight short-duration, high-intensity regional conflicts. Preparing for

²⁶ <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2015/08/22/defense-official-china-grabs-50-percent-more-land-through-man-made-islands/>, FoxNews.com, Published August 22, 2015

²⁷ Harry Eckstein, “A Culturalist Theory of Political Change,” *American Political Science Review* 82 (1998): 796.

potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait remains the focus and primary driver of China's military investment; however, the PRC is increasing its emphasis on preparations for contingencies other than Taiwan, such as contingencies in the East China Sea and South China Sea.²⁸

However what hasn't been well documented over this time is the Chinese decision making process. It has been noted that the Chinese purposefully obscure the decision making process from outsiders on purpose. Not only to strengthen the party, I propose, but also to mask any deficiencies that may occur from enemies both within and outside of the party. Those scholars who address the potential for change (inspired by Weber, Habermas, and Immanuel Wallerstein), face a great deal of criticism. However, an intriguing characteristic of the latest generation of cultural studies is the recognition of the possibility of change over time. If historical memory, political institutions, and multilateral commitments shape strategic culture, then, recent studies argue, it would seem logical to accept that security policies will evolve over time.²⁹

This strategic culture is engrained within the Chinese milieu, I argue not only because of ancient societal pressures, but also because of the recent historical subjugation of the Chinese by foreign powers.

[Harry] Eckstein suggested that the socialization of values and beliefs occurs over time. Past learning becomes sedimented in the collective consciousness and is relatively resilient to change. Lessons of the past, therefore, serve as a tight filter for any future learning that might

²⁸ Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2015, Annual Report to Congress, Page 5, Department of Defense(DOD), Website: http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2015_China_Military_Power_Report.pdf, Accessed: 2/7/2016

²⁹ Thomas Banchoff, *The German Problem Transformed: Institutions, Politics, and Foreign Policy, 1945-1995* (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1999): 2.

occur.³⁰ In the case of recent Chinese History this “collective consciousness” dates back to the 19th century when the Chinese were embarrassed as a nation during the opium wars with European nations. It continued into the 20th century ranging from Sun-Yat Sen and the establishment of a Japanese protectorate in China, and crescendoed shortly after the end of World War 2 with the establishment of Maoist China. This relatively universal experience that the Chinese alone are only able to relate to has created a strategic culture that values reticence, and bellicosity, tempered with restraint in their dealings when it comes to international relations. This trend has recently expressed itself in China’s claims in the South China Sea. Senior Chinese officials have identified protecting China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity as a “core interest,” and officials stress China’s opposition to actions they perceive as challenging this core interest. China maintains that its maritime rights extend to virtually the entire South China Sea and often illustrates its claim using a “nine-dash line” that encompasses most of the area.³¹ China has claimed much of the South China Sea as Sovereign Chinese territory even though there are rival claimants to these parcels of land. This claim has been demarcated by the Chinese in maps by a nine-dash line. This nine-dash line is meant to express their desire for these lands to be included in Chinese possessions. However China doesn’t explicitly say that these lands will be defended at all cost. Rather they leave the maritime rights of these islands open to interpretation.

³⁰ Harry Eckstein, “A Culturalist Theory of Political Change,” *American Political Science Review* 82 (1998): 796.

³¹ Military and Security Developments Involving the People’s Republic of China 2015, Annual Report to Congress, Page 12, Department of Defense(DOD), Website: http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2015_China_Military_Power_Report.pdf, Accessed: 2/7/2016

At the same time (t)he PLA is developing and testing new intermediate- and medium-range conventional ballistic missiles, as well as long range, land-attack, and anti-ship cruise missiles that extend China's operational reach, attempting to push adversary forces— including the United States—farther from potential regional conflicts.³² By not being deliberate and sure-footed in their consultations with neighboring nations about what should and should not occur on these islands, China has left open an area of ambiguity that cannot at this time be reconciled with their insistence that these islands are in fact a part of China. Chinese ambiguity I would argue is only going to continue as the issues facing China become more complex, not only in the security sphere, but also in the economic, and diplomatic spheres.

Another quick observation of Chinese strategic culture is the way in which they dealt with the recent North Korean nuclear test, and subsequent rocket launch. The Chinese envoy to North Korea in a hurriedly fashion said to the media shortly before the launch of the KwangMyongSong-4 rocket that he “I said all that he needed to say, and I did all that I needed to do.” Such comments after something as serious as a nuclear test on the Korean peninsula speaks volumes to me about how either out of touch they are with the threat on their northern border, or how diffident they are towards the pleas of the United States, and the U.N. security council to the threat of a nuclear enabled North Korea. Again it is difficult to tell what exactly they think about these things due to the opaqueness of their political system. This opaqueness further entrenches attitudes against them when they are for instance accused of cyber attacks on the military

³² Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2015, Annual Report to Congress, Page 5, Department of Defense(DOD), Website: http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2015_China_Military_Power_Report.pdf, Accessed: 2/7/2016

security structure of the U.S. government and its allies. China's military modernization has the potential to reduce core U.S. military technological advantages. China's officially disclosed military budget grew at an average of 9.5 percent per year in inflation-adjusted terms from 2005 through 2014, and China will probably sustain defense spending growth at comparable levels for the foreseeable future. Moreover, China is investing in capabilities designed to defeat adversary power projection and counter third-party—including U.S.—intervention during a crisis or conflict.³³

A final recent and very serious observation comes from Gregory Kulacki whom in his Union of Concerned Scientist report "China's Military Calls for Putting it's Nuclear Forces on Alert", calls for the United States to mitigate the danger that a recently emboldened China may pose to the United States and it's allies as it decides whether or not to put it's Nuclear Forces on a "Hair Trigger". Kulacki goes on to say "The U.S. and Soviet/Russian experience with warning systems shows that false alarms and unexpected situations occur due to human and technical errors, and are especially likely early in the deployment and operation of a warning system. Such errors increased the risk of a nuclear exchange on multiple occasions for the United States and Russia during and after the Cold War. China would certainly encounter similar incidents. Human and technical errors are especially dangerous during times of crisis."³⁴ All of these instances and the threat that North Korea poses as a belligerent country in pursuit of nuclear ballistic missile

³³ Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2015, Annual Report to Congress, Page 5, Department of Defense(DOD), Website: http://www.defense.gov/Portals/1/Documents/pubs/2015_China_Military_Power_Report.pdf, Accessed: 2/7/2016

³⁴ James Kulacki, China's Military Calls for Putting it's Nuclear Forces on Alert, Unioned of Concerned Scientist, p.7, Website: <http://www.ucsusa.org/sites/default/files/attach/2016/02/China-Hair-Trigger-full-report.pdf> Accessed: 2/13/16

technology means that the U.S. and its allies will have to be particularly vigilant when safeguarding our interest in North East Asia and the surrounding region.

The Spratly Islands Dispute

The dispute in the Spratly Islands chain has its roots in the Chinese perception of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas or UNCLOS which concluded in the early 1980's. In it safe passage is given to any vessel that is navigating waters an agreed upon distance from islands and other land formations. Reefs and submerged land features do not apply to this rule. China, which doesn't acknowledge section 7 of the treaty that outlines the previously written about rules has established "islands" and other land features built on top of reefs, and other submerged land features. The United States, as well as Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam, and the philippine's do not accept these claims as valid. These countries sans the United States also have competing claims to these islands, and reefs, that China has yet to address. One new and worrying development in this dispute is the militarization by China of these reefs, and islands. This constitutes a violation of international law, and has become the subject of much consternation in concerned capitals. It should come as no surprise then that the United States has been and will continue to, according to Admiral Harry Harris, conduct so called Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPS) near these newly developed land formations, and militarized zones. In my estimation this is the correct path to go considering that we don't want to cede any concessions to the Chinese in such a hotly contested, and vital sea lane in the world. So long as

China doesn't respect the rule of law and redraws international borders for its own benefit this obduracy by the Chinese should not go unchecked. Indeed if China is insistent on violating the rights and dignities of other countries then the United States should take it one step further and increase military aid to Taiwan, but also return the bellicose rhetoric with talk of recognizing Taiwan as a free and independent nation from China. It is only when the Chinese realize that their aims are fruitless and that they stand to lose more than they would gain, it is then that I can see the Chinese returning to within their international borders, and observing the rule of law.

Chinese Territorial Claims Vis a Vis Vietnam

Chinese claims are vast in the South China Sea and cover a variety of competing claims from countries in the Spratly Islands and beyond. One bone of contention in particular is the claim of China on Vietnamese islands that are on the edge of the Spratly Island claims and incorporated in that chain as well. Vietnam is a country that is populated with proud people that consider themselves the equals of the Chinese militarily. The Vietnamese view China as their greatest threat. The conflict over islands in and around the Spratly's have only increased tension in the relationship. Vietnam, like China, has been undergoing rapid expansion and growth economically since the turn of the 21st century. This has meant that as China has beefed up its military capabilities, Vietnam, in kind, has as well. Vietnam however has not relied only on domestic production of weapons to fend against China. The Vietnamese have procured small arms, planes, and even Kilo class submarines from Russia. This is all in the hope that they can bolster their defenses enough to prevent China from attempting an invasion; be it land, sea, or

air. The Vietnamese, according to them do not seek war with China. However as the Chinese have taken over their islands in the South China Sea, it has become more important than ever to prepare for the inevitable, in their words, conflict with China. The Vietnamese hope if the unthinkable should happen and the two nations do go to war, that the Vietnamese military will be able to take on the Chinese. But the way they see it they would only have to injure slightly the Chinese side. This injury will hopefully convince the Chinese that economically it is not worth attacking Vietnam an order to secure a tiny atoll of land in the South China Sea. China for it's part may not care that Vietnam and China are only fighting over a small strip of land in the South China Sea. if war were to ever break out between the two countries, because Vietnam is a much smaller country than China, the Chinese may fight longer than expected to secure as much leverage for negotiating as possible. China may also continue to fight Vietnam out of pride. One interesting theory is that China may actually be provoking conflict with Vietnam to not only test Vietnam's will to standup to China. But also to possibly leapfrog Russia as the dominant counter balance to United States influence. It's believed that China by successfully defeating and occupying Vietnam, believes they would have succeed where the United States failed in the 60's and 70's, thereby staking a claim as one of the preeminent military powers in the world.

Cohesive And Tactical Thematics In Which To Engage The French And European Governments With

An order for the establishment of more friendly and productive relations between the United States, the European Union, and France in particular, there needs to be concrete steps which should be taken in order to ameliorate, and expedite the resumption of healthy relations between the two continents. Below is a list and very brief explication of steps which I feel the new United States Administration can take in order to bring about a new flourishing of relations for the United States not only with France, but with a reinvigorated Europe, and European Union, which is New, Whole, and Productive on the World stage. After I list some of the more concrete steps which the United States Ambassador to France, and or the European Union can do, I then give a visual explanation of what the likelihood of the success of each proposal with one(1) being the most likely, and six(6) being the least likely. Keep in mind that these proposals do not include the myriad of judicious protocol measures which can be taken in order to impress upon the country of France, and Europe as a whole how sincere, and serious the new Administration's entreaties truly are.

Prevention of Turkish Accession into Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Recently RT reported that Turkey is mulling joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. This is in response to the, what Turkey sees, as an attenuated process for accession into the European Union. President Erdogan, who is a key NATO ally has voiced his concern for years privately, by some accounts, and now recently openly challenging European leaders whom he feels are threatening his countries eventual EU accession. For their part the EU has voiced concerns over Turkey's recent crackdown on political dissidents in his own country after a failed attempted coup over the summer. The ramifications of Turkeys bid to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization are huge, and could be felt immediately. Under Article Eight(8) of the NATO charter any country which is a member of NATO must "undertake not to enter into any international engagement in conflict with this Treaty.³⁵" And since the stated purpose of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is to be a "Political, Economic, and Military Organization"³⁶, and since the SCO is dominated by Russia, and China; then it would make sense for the United States, or any of the European member states to invoke Article Eight(8) of the NATO charter with the express intent of making clear to Turkey that such a move would be seen as complicity with the enemies; some implicitly, other explicitly, of NATO. It should be noted that the NATO charter also allows for a grace period of one(1) year prior to the ceasing of relations between NATO, and future non-NATO members, in Article Thirteen(13), by giving a "Notice of Denunciation"³⁷ to the United States of America.

³⁵ The North Atlantic Treaty; Washington D.C. - 4 April 1949; http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17120.htm; accessed: November 21st, 2016

³⁶ Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Wikipedia Page; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanghai_Cooperation_Organisation; Accessed: November 21st, 2016

³⁷ The North Atlantic Treaty; Washington D.C. - 4 April 1949; http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_17120.htm; accessed: November 21st, 2016

Russian Intransigence In The Security Council And Elsewhere

With Russia on the ropes in Syria, and Crimea, and Putin relegated to Pariah status, it's no wonder then that a lane seems to be opening up for the Russian's, and other rogue state actors to begin to foment what seems to be the start of an organizational shift which could lead to, Asian, European, and African countries led by Russia into a separate world order wholly corrupt, and morally bankrupt, but nonetheless a separate world order different than the one now currently situated. The following are a list of reasons for and against the establishment of what Richard Haass has called World Order 2.0 by the possible countries which would be enticed by Russia:

For: Allow the possible countries to redefine the global rules on trade, and human rights.

Allow for a return to post World War Two posturing between the U.S. and Russia, albeit illegitimately, and on a much smaller scale.

Dictate the global price of rare, and superfluous commodities to non aligned and aligned countries alike. (diamonds, gold, rare earth minerals, oil)

Allow for the proliferation of arms sales which would coincide with a more militant animus in chosen, and unchosen regions of the world.

Allow for the appearance of sticking it to the “evil imperials” gaining instant street credence among other pariah states, and stateless actors.

Against: Politically, Economically, socially, morally, the consequences could simply be too much to bear for Russia.

The loss of pivotal transit lanes and customers for exports— particularly oil and gas.

Economically unsustainable

Politically catastrophic as the amount of capital spent attempting would send Russian markets and assets into a tailspin forcing out the current government almost assuredly.

Lack of basic goods would hamper the growth of already stagnant Russian society birth rate.

Russia risks forfeiting international prestige for the benefit of outlier states either once controlled by the soviets, or influenced by them, the expense of their own seat at the economic, and political table.

Guns but no Butter: the Russians would risk almost everything they have currently for a future that guarantees them clients for their stated goal of becoming the worlds largest arms supplier.

However the ostracizing inherent in the steps they would have to take to get to that point would make the selling of arms obsolete due to no aftermarket for currency.

Episodes of Russian Intimidation:

Kosovo's permanent representative to the UN, Vlora Çitaku by my analysis of the Security Council's official photos for the day of the 16th of November, 2016, was ruefully looked upon,



and even openly scorned, along with other disdainful behavior by Ivica Dačić the Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister, and Foreign Affairs Minister.

By observing the photos one is able to detect a series of social cues and slights from opposing parties while present in the security council chamber, aimed at one another respectively. Minister Dačić seems to be relying on the fact that he is a high ranking Serbian politician of a certain age to publicly discredit Ambassador Çitaku who was only a child at the time of the massacres in Srebrenica, and the mass graves found throughout Kosovo, which was led by former Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic. Ambassador Çitaku is a survivor of that ethnic cleansing campaign.

Russian Ambassador to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin seems to be the main conduit of these and other much more sinister behaviors which ruefully go on unimpeded under his watchful guise. And though Ambassador Churkin recently suffered a heart attack and died at the United Nations building earlier on the morning of February 20th, 2017, this behavior will no doubt continue from whomever the Russians ultimately present to head their delegation under U.N. auspices.³⁸ This is because the core issues which exist in Russia, namely the morally bankrupt régime which currently is in place, and the unaccountability of that régime's actions by the population under their auspices go on unabated.

³⁸ Richard Roth, Holly Yan, Vitaly Churkin, Russia's Ambassador to the U.N. Die's Suddenly at 64, At: <http://www.cnn.com/2017/02/20/europe/russia-un-ambassador-vitaly-churkin-dead/index.html>, Accessed: 02/20/17

Russia during its presidency of the UN Security Council in September of 2015 held a UNSC meeting which lasted more than six and a half hours. In other words the sole nation propping up the Assad regime, themselves a pariah state, held a meeting on that very subject for upwards of six and a half hours. There has also been intransigence by Syria's ambassador to the UN, Bashar Ja'afari. In one recent Security Council Meeting Ja'afari went on a anti-semitic screed about the Israeli's and their Military Industrial Complex for its procurement of Nuclear missiles to defend themselves from enemies in the region.

Even taken out of context such actions, and such a situation are unjustifiable by the Russian's and their proxies both in the Security Council, as well as on the ground in Ukraine, Syria, and this is more recent, Kosovo, and should not be tolerated. If we are to deter Russia, and defend our allies both in Russia's near abroad(as defined by Russia itself), and the greater regional struggles which have been precipitated by them, then it is incumbent upon the United States as the sole guarantor of peaceful relations between countries, and the safe, and orderly conducting of business between rational actors, to meet these crises head-on and not shy away from the ugly truth, International Laws, and norms which the Russian's callously flaunt before the International Community. If the United States however is to prevent further erosion of the established International Order, then their needs to be furthering of cooperation between the United States, and its European Partners, especially France, and Germany. This is why I propose this as one of the main issues which the newly minted Ambassador to the European Union; and more specifically, France, for the preservation of life long alliances, and the prevention of defection to

the Russian sphere, from countries, such as the Eastern Europeans, whom often have newly established relations with the United States.

The Syrian War and Russian War Expenditures

In an exclusive contextual analysis of World Bank economic figures, it has been determined that Russia, and other Syrian Proxies may have expended in excess of \$800 Billion US dollars in the war in Syria. Russia, whose involvement in the war, if the numbers are to be believed, goes back to at least 2011, and recently required them to Sell a Large Stake in Gazprom to a Mystery Buyer.³⁹ All this comes at a time where the battle for Aleppo has forced Russia, and Syria, to expend vast sums of money against battle hardened rebel groups supported by the United States.

The numbers which paint a story that was mostly intact through the narrative in the media reveals that during the year 2011, shortly after the Arab spring protest erupted in Syria, and turned violent, the Syrian government was vouchsafed a sum totaling in excess of \$105 Billion US dollars to put down the protest. In the following year, 2012 — when the protest had by then morphed into a civil war, the sum is increased by 77% with a lump sum, or added value injection of currency equal to \$136 Billion US dollars. The amounts from their begin to vary radically from year to year with an estimated \$224 Billion being expended in 2013, \$901 million in 2014, before the amounts multiply again, coinciding with the stepped up presence of Russia in Syria,

³⁹ Miller, Kevin, Russian Syrian War Expenditures Said To Top \$800 Billion, Kevin's Politics Blog, at: <https://wordpress.com/posts/kevinspoliticalblog.wordpress.com> accessed on: February 13, 2017

topping out at \$322 Billion in 2015 before again bottoming out in 2016 where an estimated \$935 Million was actually taken from Syria's coffers. If the numbers are to be believed the astronomical price which the Russian's paid to keep Assad in power comes in at a cool \$809 Billion Dollars.

For all of this it seems that the Russians may have, or could recoup almost all of the money by the aforementioned sale of a stake in Gazprom, a Russian company which keeps notoriously opaque books. If this is true it would put the Russian governments finances back on steady ground, though at the expense of relinquishing control of one of the glittering crown jewels in the governments business portfolio. As for Assad, and Syria its estimated through the numbers released by the World Bank that Syria owes to short term debtors in excess of \$1 trillion US dollars, with Assad personally owing at least 10% of that or \$100 billion. The future of Syria after a war which has displaced 2 million people and which has killed untold scores more is still up in the air.

The current atmosphere in the world is one of mistrust as two of some of the worlds biggest militaries, the United States, and Russia, squared off fighting a proxy war between each other. Furthermore if these numbers; \$800 Billion over Seven years, and the reported sale of Gazprom are to be believed, then the use of this evidence as an instrument which can be used to further the relations between the United States, and France should not come as a surprise. France which often shows great deference, almost reverence for Russia in its relations with the State could possibly, under the right powers of suasion, be induced to refuse further loans, and guarantees to

Russia as a measure to further the entanglement of Russia with United States Sanctions, and as a way to further diminish Russian influence and geoeconomics might, as defined by Robert Blackwill in his 2015 book *War By Other Means*; GEOECONOMICS is: The use of economic instruments to promote and defend national interests, and to produce beneficial geopolitical results; and the effects of other nations' economic actions on a country's geopolitical goals.⁴⁰ What this means for the United States and French relationship, and its correlation to Russia, is that an order to influence the United States, French relationship in specific their needs to be a flourishing of economic ties between the two nation-states. This, I posit in subsequent ideas for mutual cooperation, can be accomplished by first and foremost deepening ties between the oil, and natural gas sector. And two, restructuring banking debt between the two countries which goes above, and beyond Basel II, and even Basel III.

Sanctioning Russian Oil and Gas: An American Gambit

I have already talked about the amount of money which Russia has expended in Syria in pursuit of neo-imperial ambitions. Now I want to talk a bit about Russian neo-imperial ambitions that include but are not limited to Russian dominance of the energy markets. In fact according to Robert Einhorn and Rose Gottemoeller "Russia is working actively to reinvigorate and expand its nuclear industry and its reliance on nuclear power in the decades to come. Russian technical and political benefits and opportunities under a 123 agreement"⁴¹, And "These reform efforts are

⁴⁰ Blackwill, Robert D.; Harris, Jennifer M. (2016-04-11). *War by Other Means* (Kindle Locations 494-496). Harvard University Press. Kindle Edition.

⁴¹ Robert Einhorn, Rose Gottemoeller, *The U.S.-Russia Civil Nuclear Agreement A Framework for Cooperation*, p.35, May 2008

in line with Russia's broader energy strategy—to expand Russia's global role as an energy provider, along with Russian technical and political benefits and opportunities under a 123 agreement.⁴² Though the 123 agreement was meant to expand commercial ties between the U.S. and Russia's civilian nuclear sectors these plans have presumably been put on hold, due to the shooting down of MH-17, and Russian intransigence in the Ukraine⁴³. An equally contentious area of conflict derives from the fact that Russia inherited a gas pipeline infrastructure that transports gas to Europe across territories that are now independent states, mainly Ukraine and Belarus. As Gazprom got locked into pricing conflicts with such transit states (such as Ukraine), it rapidly discovered that its own highly lucrative export to the European Union could be held hostage. Deliveries of gas to Ukraine could, for example, not be shut down without also shutting down deliveries to EU member states. The conclusion that the transit states must be sidelined

⁴² Robert Einhorn, Rose Gottemoeller, *The U.S.-Russia Civil Nuclear Agreement A Framework for Cooperation*, p.35, May 2008

⁴³ Ironically though the degree of Russian intransigence is up for debate I posit in a subsequent posting at my online blog Kevin's Politics Blog, that the unforced error on Russia's part is not. Original Below: When the now famous words "The ships are lost. Mindarus is dead. The men are starving. We wonder what is to be done." Were recorded by Xenophon in his book *Hellenica* it was in reference to the fate of a Spartan naval detachment which had found itself stranded in Crimea, a place as cold and foreboding then as it is now. Fast forward to today and we see Vladimir Putin seemingly getting the upper hand, occupying the southern peninsular region of Crimea with sailors, and warships. The region which has been host to at first intense combat, 2011-2014, and now intermittent skirmishes seems like the ideal place for the Russians to enact their neo-imperial policy of dominating the near abroad. Indeed from the current American administrations viewpoint President Putin has done it again to the United States outfoxing the Americans, this time by forcibly claiming oil and Euxine(Black Sea) territoriality, something not done by Russia since the end of the Cold War. History tells another story. The quote above from Xenophon has been attributed to Hippocrates. Hippocrates was an aide de camp to Admiral Mindauros during the Peloponnesian War. In this wide ranging and consequential war during the 5th century B.C. the Spartans and Athenians were engaged in a contest of wills which would go on to decide the fate of greek city state life forever. The battle in question, however involved Mindauros a competent Spartan admiral who was sent to Crimea via the Bosphorus an order to prevent Athenian exploitation of resources. He was to in essence blockade Crimea and from there he was to return home. However in this battle Mindauros on his way back from blockading Crimea was waylaid by an Athenian statesman by the name of Alcibiades. Alcibiades' contribution is significant since it forced the Spartans to de camp in Crimea, an otherwise barren wasteland significant only because of its natural resources. In the battle Mindauros is killed, and the ships and their provisions are either captured or destroyed by the Athenians. The Spartans were able to control the souther tip of Crimea, however the land was inhospitable with mountains to the North, Scythian's further inland, and Athenians on the seas. It got so bad that the Spartans began to cannibalize each other unable to find food, or a viable water source. The point that i'm making is this: It may seem as though Putin has the upper hand in Crimea, however he can't go inland as the Ukrainians are waiting for him, the natural resources can't be fully exploited, since theres no where to take them, the land is inhospitable as there is very little wildlife and since it's an island walled off by mountains from the rest of Russia; the Russians are surely having a difficult time keeping their soldiers well fed and rested. The administration need only blockade the port and Russia will feel compelled to engage in naval warfare. So then if the incoming administration or the current administration feels the need to apply pressure on Russia they need only look at Crimea as the Achilles heel in Russia's plans in the region. In the Athenian blockade the Spartans tried time and again to break it and get away from Crimea, however the blockade was only lifted when the Athenians ran out of supplies of food and water necessary to sustain it. So then Putin may have the upper hand but this is a tenuous situation at best.

was done by building bypass pipelines such as the Nord Stream, which already transports gas directly from Vyborg in Russia to Greifswald in Germany, and the South Stream, which is to transport gas from the Caspian Basin via the Black Sea to south-eastern Europe. Both Poland and the Baltic states responded vehemently to what they viewed as a project designed to shut down their energy supplies without disrupting the flow to Germany.⁴⁴ All of this is going on while according to the Clingendael International Energy Programme “In 2012 Russia exported 7.2 million barrels per day of *total liquids*. The vast majority of Russian exports (84 percent) went to Europe. Russia thus is dependent on the European market, although it is increasingly diverting crude oil exports to Asia, while also refining more crude at home so it can export more value added products.”⁴⁵

So then when we see the combination of Russia invading Ukraine while simultaneously threatening the rest of Europe with artificial energy shortages these are part of “Russia’s neo-imperial project (that) no longer relies on Soviet-era instruments, such as ideological allegiance, military control, or the implanting of proxy governments. Instead, the primary goal is to exert pre-dominant influence over the foreign and security policies of immediate neighbors so they will either remain neutral or support Russia’s international agenda.”⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Stefan Hedlund Stephen J. Blank; Editor POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER PUTIN 2.0: WILL PETRODOLLARS SUFFICE TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT? p.99, December 2013

⁴⁵ Clingendael International Energy Programme Fact Sheet Russia-Europe: the liquid relationship often overlooked, pg.2, at: <https://www.clingendael.nl/> accessed: 08/07

⁴⁶ Janusz Bugajski, Stephen J. Blank Editor; POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, RUSSIA AS A POLE OF POWER: PUTIN’S REGIONAL INTEGRATION AGENDA, p.175, December 2013

Gazprom may have thought that Liquefied natural gas (LNG) could be safely ignored. It is expensive and does not offer control to the extent that pipelines do. The shale gas revolution, or simply the “shale gale,” changed all that. Following years of massive investment by Qatar, in particular in export terminals for LNG, and by the United States in import terminals for the same, the United States suddenly was no longer in need of imported gas. With its import terminals standing idle, LNG was instead rerouted to Europe, where a gas glut emerged. Gazprom suffered doubly, both from a loss of market shares to the cheaper LNG and from having to agree to demands from its customers that oil-price linkage must give way to spot-market pricing.⁴⁷ And also according to Stefan Hedlund “...by far the greatest challenge both to Gazprom and to Russia is the arrival of “unconventional gas,” notably shale gas, which has caused a complete change of scenes.”⁴⁸

Russia needs to accept that the environment that they operate in is not the same as the one the tsars or even the soviet autocrats maneuvered in. this begins with recognizing the overwhelming priority among a plethora of things that must be done is to diversify the economy. After 15 years of the Vladimir Putin-Dmitry Medvedev tandem, Russia’s economy depends more on hydrocarbons that it did in 1999. Russia now needs a price of somewhere between \$110 and \$130 per barrel of oil to balance its budget. If the price of oil were to drop to \$80 per barrel (as of this writing it hovers around \$45/barrel), the (Russian) Reserve Fund would last 1 year.⁴⁹

⁴⁷ Stefan Hedlund, Stephen J. Blank Editor POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER PUTIN 2.0: WILL PETRODOLLARS SUFFICE TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT? p.104-105, December 2013

⁴⁸ Stefan Hedlund, Stephen J. Blank Editor; POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, ECONOMIC REFORM UNDER PUTIN 2.0: WILL PETRODOLLARS SUFFICE TO KEEP THE SHIP AFLOAT? p.103, December 2013

⁴⁹ Harley Balzer, Stephen J. Blank Editor; POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN’S RUSSIA, AUTHORITARIANISM AND MODERNIZATION IN RUSSIA: IS RUSSIA KA-PUTIN? p.126-127, December 2013

However (t)he most serious obstacles are corruption and self-interest in the political system, educational and research institutions, and Russia's epistemic communities.⁵⁰ If a cold war is truly beginning to develop between the United States and Russia, then it seems to me that it would prudent to expect the worst case scenario, as far as Russian intentions are concerned. We as a nation cannot allow ourselves to fall prey to Russian coercion in any part of Europe. The situation in Donetsk and Crimea is unacceptable. We must counter Russian aggression with robust plans for the long haul in Eastern Europe. With Russia's incursion into Syria and the subsequent blowback throughout the world to their actions we must seize this opportunity to affect change in the European countenance toward Russia. At no time since the end of the cold war has there been such unity in Europe against Russia. This does not mean that Russian aggression toward the rest of Europe will abate on its own. Quite the contrary, if we are to see meaningful change in Russia's disposition which can carry us through many generations of good will and comity between the United States and Russia, then we must prepare to defend Eastern Europe from the grave and growing threat of Russian intransigence. It is imperative on America's part to gain the upper hand, and initiative where we can, and when we can with regards to Russia.

The idea of the phase adaptive approach, or PAA is not new with regards to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). However the idea of if or where we should deploy it has been under debate for some time. The threat of nuclear war coming from North Korea, or a belligerent China is real and we must do all we can to protect ourselves from such an attack. In terms of a ballistic

⁵⁰ Harley Balzer, Stephen J. Blank Editor; POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN PUTIN'S RUSSIA, AUTHORITARIANISM AND MODERNIZATION IN RUSSIA: IS RUSSIA KA-PUTIN?, p.127, December 2013

missile threat on our pacific coast from said states I believe that it is secure. As we've unfurled PAA an order to counter threats in the world from nuclear capable states we have also run into strong opposition not just from our enemies but from our allies as well. For our allies there idea of PAA has changed dramatically with Russia's increasingly bellicose maneuvers. In recent months and years however the threat of so called hybrid warfare has increased exponentially from Russia. This is why I'm proposing that we consult with our allies and friends in the Baltic's an order to negate the threat that Russia poses to Europe, both conventionally, and strategically. By speeding up the process through which the PAA is adopted by nations we can better get a handle on the unique threat which Russia now poses to the region.

It must not end with simply installing radar and deploying SDI to the requisite regions an order to counter Russian ballistic missile threat in Europe, and Asia. We must also work to deploy tactical and strategic conventional military assets an order to balance Russia's significant influence, through coercion in Europe. And while the idea of defending Europe with weaponry is important it's also important to realize that weaponry alone will not allow America a free hand in its defense affairs. It was not long ago that Ukraine and the rest of Europe were caught flat footed when Russia decided to no longer deliver vital liquefied natural gas (LNG) deposits to Europe in the winter by shutting off its pipelines. This is a situation which must not be allowed to subsist. This is why I'm recommending today that we build a pipeline to Europe across the North Atlantic Sea. By opening U.S. oil and LNG to Europe we can thereby affect a strategic advantage over Russia. By doing this we allow for a more even playing field by creating parity between Europe and Russia when it comes to economic and diplomatic issues. while we're on the subject of Russian intransigence, and the future of our relations in Europe, with respect to Russia, never

before has there been so much agreement between the U.S. and the European Union, and Europe more broadly that Russia imposing its will in Europe is no longer acceptable. The first thing that needs to be done to solve the Russian question is energy independence. That means that Russia can no longer have the ability to at any day and time to turn off the spigot of oil, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Europe for any reason whatsoever. And if they can it should make such an insignificant dent in the daily Europeans life that we would hear not so much as a whimper from them. How do we get to such parity, one might ask? Well the obvious answer would be to funnel oil into Europe from a secondary source nearby. However with relations recently souring with Azerbaijan, and Central Asia as a whole it becomes much more difficult lately to secure any sort of oil and gas deal with them that Russia couldn't easily block or manipulate for their own gain. And getting oil and gas deposits from the Middle East to Europe will prove logistically challenging with the many wars that are currently being waged in the region, with no end in sight. Africa is distant and likewise as unstable as the Middle East in many terms. The recent shale boom in the U.S. and Canada has assured a glut of oil for the U.S., and it is currently being debated as to what should come of it. This is why I'm proposing that a pipeline be built that would send oil from the U.S. and Canada to Europe. This pipeline would be on land from the shale fields of North Dakota, and Saskatchewan to the eastern coast of Nova Scotia. The oil would then move northward to cross the Davis Strait into Greenland where it would again hit land. Then at the southern tip of Greenland it would again cross the Atlantic into Iceland. Then next down to the United Kingdom and eventually to Europe via additional pipeline to France, and Germany. This Infrastructure will solidify a new era of peace and cooperation between the U.S. and Europe, particularly in the economic sphere.

The countering Russia's aggression in Donetsk, Crimea, and Syria is a noble calling that must be heeded by the United States, and its partners in Europe. We can begin by nurturing our relationship with the FSA by bringing them to America, and training, and equipping them until the time comes for an appropriate Syrian Putsch. However the fight must not end. By utilizing American airpower, and allowing for the Iraqi army to take the lead, we provide safe cover for the United States through a country that we're thankfully, all too familiar with. The Iraqis will provide the ability to fight the Islamic State, without fighting Assad, and all while not being bombed from any side concerned, not the Russians, not the Syrian army, and not Turkey. By taking a step back and regaining our composure we can see that there are many things within Europe which we can do, that will affect the outcome of relations in Syria. These things include, but are not limited to, allowing for the construction of pipeline from the American, Canadian Mid-West, to Europe via Greenland, and Iceland. We can also bring into the fold a hastening of the PAA and SDI into Eastern European countries. This will allow for a further rebalancing of the United States relationship with Russia. It should also be noted that we should seek to strengthen our ties with Eastern Europe by moving soldiers, and military materiel into the Baltic's which will provide for the defense of these countries against an already strategically committed Russia. This is not the end of the road, but by taking these first steps and a little luck I believe that we just might get there.

The Future Of The NATO Alliance

NATO is dissolutus. Its morals are loose, and its mission is ill defined for the 21st century. What is needed is a rethink of the NATO alliance, indeed a reckoning not only with the situation at hand, but also situations which have yet to arise. With so much at stake in the world it is no wonder that any lack of movement on this issue only strengthens the hands of our enemies, and adds to the uneasiness already present, in our international alliances.

If the core mission of NATO is to allow for a mechanism of safety, and recourse for member states. The belief that we are stronger together than we are alone. Then unfortunately we are well on our way to NOT having fulfilled this role for member states. When one thinks of the modern era, it is not usually knights, and armor, and religious orders which usually come to mind. Indeed these types of ideas: code of chivalry, duty, respect, honor, loving one's neighbor as you love one's self, in our modern times, have come into disrepute. However when one takes in the sweep of crises facing the NATO alliance: A recalcitrant Russia, A nuclear armed North Korea, A complex relationship with China, the wars in Syria, and Iraq; Islamic Fundamentalism; it is no wonder that NATO has fallen into such chaos, and malaise.

If we are to proceed any further into the 21st century and beyond, without neglecting our shared vision of a World safe, prosperous, and at peace with itself, then we must fundamentally change the way we view this alliance system. What I propose has been done before, yea, it is the backbone of our shared cultural heritage, and the ties which bind us. What I propose is not the dissolution of NATO, but rather a rethinking which would lead to the establishment of an international chivalric order which is intended to one day rival the sweep, and scope of the current international order we now know today. The (J)oint (E)conomic (S)trategic (U)nited

States (S)ecurity Pact or JESUS for short seeks to fundamentally redefine the stated mission for NATO not only for now, but for the 21st century, and beyond. The mission of JESUS is simply this: the safety and security of nations throughout the world, and the establishment of safekeeping of those whom are in need of our resources, and tender loving keep; the sick, and poor, the disabled, and those yearning for freedom. It is not only our shared economic, and political aspirations which bind us, but indeed it is our cultural bonds which give us the impetus to think of such things. However JESUS is not an alliance that seeks to separate men, but instead it is a system which seeks to bind them together. By codifying the alliance system which the United States has painstakingly assembled over the last 100+ years we seek to combine the heft, and influence of us all, since the sum of our parts together is greater than that which is alone. By combining our knowledge, resources, and expertise we will be able to confront the current world crises which we didn't ask for, and yet have been given to us. And future crises which we do not yet know, and yet have prepared for. It is through the strengthening of NATO, and the addition of US allies throughout the world, that we will be able to confront the cold reality that we must yet face down, even today. The security parameters of this new organization entail the codification of previous agreements between the US and Europe, the US and it's overseas alliances, and the EU and its member states, including the newly minted European Defense Agency. By combining all existing security structures, into one cohesive security architecture we seek to bring together the sharpest most able bodied men and women of the western world, and beyond, an order to effectuate a more durable and lasting peace between countries.

As for the economic agreements, in these increasingly global times it will go well for us as member states of these institutions if we allow for ourselves to integrate our economies into a

strong, and durable amalgamation which will allow for the pooling of capital, and human resources, an order to preserve, and protect the member states and their security priorities. Chief amongst these concerns is the Restructuring of United States Debt held by European Union Members an order to fund the newly created (E)uropean (D)efense (A)gency(EDA), as explicated earlier. As well as other yet to be determined initiatives. The underwhelming size of European Debt Holdings of United States Treasury Bonds fails to belie the comfortable position which a sizable share of interest European Banks have taken in the United States Treasury Securities Market. This fact does not go unnoticed by the author. However with outstanding debt totaling in excess of 1.24 trillion dollars being held by European Union countries it is an amount which in my estimation could be better managed, by both the United States; and the European Union. The manner in which this debt is paid back be it through the issuance of more bonds, the collection of debt held by the United States, or a restructuring of U.S. debt entirely is something that is scant brought up here in the U.S. press, and I'm afraid even more so by European Countries. If the U.S. and Europe are to leverage there strengthening bonds, as laid out in a recent position paper for NATO, for the near term, and long term future, then the resolution of how this money will be paid back should be something which is on the table. The method of payment which I'm promulgating to you today is a complete restructuring of all European Union Debt into one account which will be paid off in part by both the U.S., and the Europeans.

The first part of restructuring which I recommend is the re-issuance of the debt as European Union Bonds. This will allow for the debt to be better managed by the European States and will add leverage on both the U.S. and European side when future negotiations take place.

The most sizable holder of U.S. debt in the European Union is Ireland. However the second largest is Switzerland, and though Switzerland is not a part of the European Union, it is a large banking center in the heart of Western Europe. It also happens to be a neutral country which would make it a good arbiter should take place. So then all debt should be serviced for the European Union through Switzerland as a fixed point intermediary.

The next part of the restructuring which I recommend is the transference of the principal and interest which is remaining in the European Union held debt which is outstanding, and held privately to be changed from a United States originator, to a European Union originator. This will make for a more cohesive whole in the European debt which is outstanding and held by the European Union countries. By doing this we also consolidate EU debt into one whole which the U.S. can then pay directly to the European Union as a whole rather than dealing with individual debt holders in the private sector. This in effect relinquishes the obligations of the United States to the private foreign debt holders, while at the same time obligating the United States to a new sovereign creditor being the European Union.

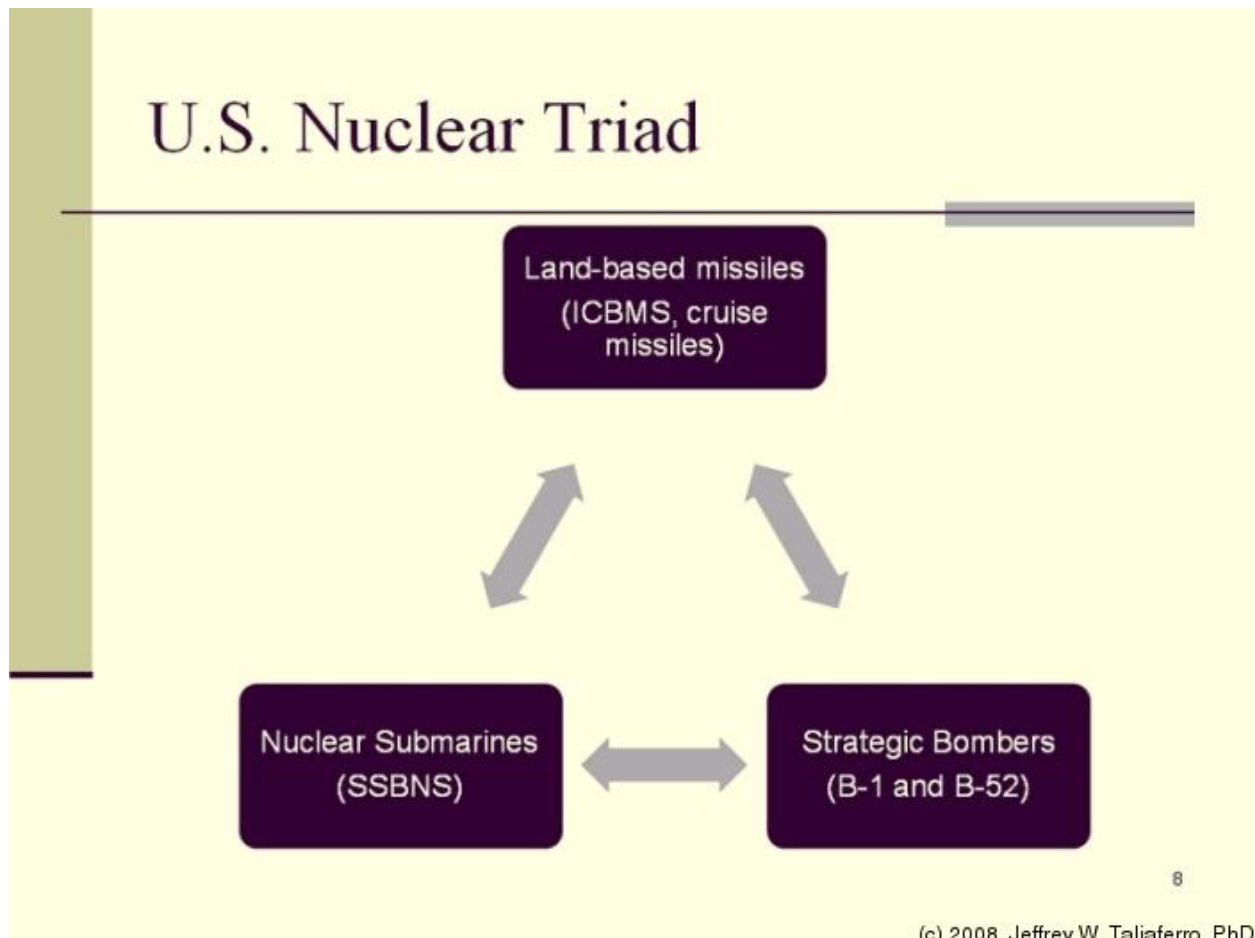
Once these two efforts at restructuring are done then the next part is the actual recalibrating of the interest rates between the United States and the European Union as the debt which is now sovereign will be paid off more rapidly than if it were simply private lenders. The agreed upon interest rate should be agreed to by both sides.

The fourth part of the restructuring is the agreed upon principals in which the debt now owed to the EU will be paid back by the United States. Ideally the monies which the United States gives to the EU under this program will be used directly to fund, equip and maintain the newly created European Defense Agency. These monies however could also plausibly be used for other European Union projects such as the maintenance of ongoing peace keeping operations, or refugee resettlement/EURONAV missions. I also foresee the principal and or interest of the now restructured European Union loan being paid off through United States assistance missions involving United States personnel, the acquisition by the European Defense Agency of American military arms, and defense platforms, or the monies paid for the use of space on European combatant ships as relates to United States Army, Navy, Marine, Air Force personnel for the maintenance of United States power projection.

Though the amount of monies which are outstanding between the United States, and the European Union are nominal, registering in at only 6.21% of total debt outstanding, it will still behoove the United States, and the European Union to pool talent, and resources together in order to help both alleviate United States foreign debt, as well as find a quick, stable, and reliable source of funds for the newly created EDA. If as what a recent NATO position paper called for, which is a deepening of cooperation across seven different areas, along over 140 critical points of contact, then the ready and reliable bolstering of the European Defense Agency by the United States can only be seen as going hand in hand with the deepening of ties which bond the United States, and the European Continent.

Ballistic Missile Defense, and our European Partners

Throughout much of Western Europe, and especially in the United Kingdom, the debate rages as to how is the European Union, as well as European states individually supposed to prevent a nuclear confrontation by an aggressive nation state. And though much of the focus has been on untraditional non-state actors, a thorough debate has been raging in these capitals for some time now as to how to build a credible state actor, nuclear deterrent.



This extremely important question is one that, I believe, the United States should be given an opportunity to elaborate on. The idea that a state actor would take advantage of a credible nuclear deterrent in Europe is not new, though it has become novel since the end of the cold war. Russia for instance has flown strategic bombers close to the United Kingdom, and mainland Europe on several occasions over the past two years. And though the likelihood of a preemptive first strike by a nation state in Europe is waning, and the opportunity for a nuclear catastrophe precipitated by a non-state actor is growing, it deserves a cohesive and well thought out policy. An order to safeguard our alliances in Europe, and prevent our allies from seeking their own nuclear deterrent to Russian, as well as others' aggression, we must incorporate European strategic interest into Strategic Defense Initiative, as well as (H)igh (A)ltitude (S)tratic (I)nductive (G)eo-Spatial (S)hield, or HASTINGS ballistic missile defense capabilities.

The HASTINGS concept is not a new one but instead a throwback to the early, and indeed consequential days of the Strategic Defense Initiative or SDI during the Reagan Administration. Essentially it involves the placing of Enemy Kill Vehicles or EKV's in the form of either missile or laser borne modules an order to destroy incoming MIRV's, or ICBM threats. This capability would also produce the added effect of acquiring, should we choose to do so, a nuclear first strike capability, from space. Indeed this has already begun to happen as when in may 2016 the United States turned on its THAAD missile defense system in Romania, much to the chagrin of the Russians. This was done an order to shield eastern European allies from attack from Russian MRBM, or Intermediate Nuclear Forces, a type of missile that is covered under the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty that the Russians recently violated thus all but withdrawing

from the agreement. By taking into account European interest before the umbrella HASTINGS offensive capabilities are installed, this will allow for a convenient, and widely regarded deterrent to any ballistic missile capabilities that ours, Europe's foes, or any of our other allies may have, or seek to develop. The future for (H)igh (A)ltitude (ST)atic (IN)ductive (G)eo-Spatial (S)hield (HASTINGS) into the space battlefield is promising. the inclusion of this first strike capability,

Possible THAAD deployment stirs controversy

The U.S. is considering deploying an advanced missile defense system to the Korean Peninsula to better counter North Korea's missile threats. But the possible deployment is raising concerns that it could cause friction with China, which perceives the system as a threat. U.S. Forces Korea Commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti has confirmed that Washington was considering sending the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense system, one of the core assets of the multilayered U.S. missile defense program, to the peninsula. Seoul maintains that it will not join the U.S. program. Instead, it seeks to build its independent Korea Air and Missile Defense system, a low-tier, multiple-interception program that destroys incoming missiles at altitudes of 40-50 km. Unlike the KAMD, the U.S. program targets longer-range missiles and employs various interception systems at the three major stages — boost, midcourse and terminal stages. At the boost stage, an airborne missile is used to incapacitate the missile, while during Space Deployed ground-based interceptors in Alaska or sea-based SM-3 missiles are to be used. For the terminal stage, THAAD, Arrow antiballistic or Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missiles are mobilized.



along with the ability of the system to extend the reach, and scope of the THAAD missile defense system, makes for a compelling argument for its inclusion in the research and development budget of the United States. Though these new space assets may become controversial to near peer adversaries, and nefarious actors in the world, there is no doubt to

me that the comfort and reassurance that such a system will provide to our allies, will more than make up for controversy over its novelty. There is no doubt in my mind that this system, once deployed, coupled with the awesome deterrence of the Nuclear Triad, and the THAAD interceptor system, will provide the utmost of security for the American people. And will allow for there to be a richer, and more robust conversation, within the military, and intelligence community, about the future of our nuclear deterrence.

Rafic Hariri Special Tribunal And Assad's Ouster

The February 14, 2005, attack that killed Rafic Hariri was a terrible blow for the advancement of Lebanese nationalism, and served only to strengthen the hold that Bashar al-Assad's Syria had on the country, as an occupying power. And although the Syrian government was eventually forced to leave Lebanon in 2006 shortly before Israel's war with Hizbollah. The perpetrators of this crime were never caught.

A special tribunal was established shortly after the death of the former Lebanese Prime Minister, which has been headed by United Nations Independent International Investigation Commissioner Daniel Bellamare.⁵¹ The good news is that the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) will be ready to make their decision this year. The crux of the decision falls to the case "Prosecutor v. Ayyash, Badreddine, Merhi, Oneissi and Sabra case ("Ayyash et al.)", and has

⁵¹ Daniel Bellamare, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Bellemare Accessed: 4/29/16

been going on since 2009.⁵² The antecedents of the case stipulate that these four Lebanese nationals, conspired with the regime of Bashar al-Assad to assassinate Rafic Hariri in February of 2005. Specifically there are cellphone records, and metadata which points to Bashar al-Assad ordering these men to kill former Prime Minister Hariri, to prevent Lebanon from breaking away from Syria, after elections later that year.

This damning evidence will be released to the world hopefully at an opportune time which will allow for the United States to expose the crimes of the Assad regime. This is an opportunity that the United States cannot let go to waste and must capitalize on so that the administration can exert maximum pressure on the Assad Regime. As relates to United States-French relations there is no subject between the two which I can think of that will bring such accord between the two nations than the relations of Lebanon, a former French colonial outpost cum Syrian protectorate, which is struggling to find its own identity as a post Syrian paraxial. My recommendation is that we should expedite the release of the report from the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. And have the chief prosecutor, Daniel Bellamare present the report to the United Nations Security Council at the appropriate time. This will allow us to exert maximum pressure on the Assad regime in negotiations for his resignation (or ouster) from the Presidency of Syria.

The Church And Its Ecumenical Papal Authority

⁵² Special Tribunal for Lebanon, Special Tribunal for Lebanon Seventh Annual Report (2015-2016), <http://www.stl-tsl.org/en/documents/stl-documents/presidents-reports-and-memoranda/4833-seventh-annual-report-2015-2016> Accessed: 4/29/16

In 2015 Pope Francis I visited the United States in what many viewed as an important and conciliatory gesture toward Americans, and Protestants as a whole— He was the second pope to do so. In the preceding weeks and days that followed there was much talk about the munificence of the Pope, and his desire for there to be world peace, and the coming together of the ecumenical Christian community as one church, once again, and once for all. With all the preceding, and intervening commotion of just what it would take for the Church to truly be under one roof, and upon great reflection of the matter, as relates to United States-French relations I feel that by the United States aligning itself with the Pope's sentiments and truly understanding first, the roots of the conflict, and secondly, formulating a proposed solution to the impasse will allow for a strengthening of the bonds between the two countries going back to revolutionary times. It is in this vein that I endeavor to explicate these things to you today. In the 16th century for the Rodrigo Borgia, the Pope at the time, "The Vatican was frequently the scene of indecent orgies, at which the Pope did not scruple to be present. Men shrugged their shoulders at these things, and few in Rome were seriously shocked. The age was corrupt, and the Pope's example sanctioned its corruption."⁵³ With the debasing of the Papacy by Rodrigo Borgia, and his son Cesare for personal gain; and the unmitigated disaster which Charles VII of France's conquest of Italy meant for the Church, and its Chancellery, it became obvious to most of Christendom that the Pope was not indeed, God incarnate. After the Lateran Council, subsequent to the Wars of the League of Cambria, the Pope's influence on Christendom was much diminished, in large parts of the West. This is in no small part due to the then rebel preacher Martin Luther and his treatise on the Church. In the 17th Century the declining influence of the Church took its toll on a much larger part of Europe as Wars of Religion, and civil strife broke out. It is said that "less

⁵³ Creighton, Mandell (2015-01-28). *The Wars of the Papal States 1492-1517 - Italian Princes, Warrior Popes, and Holy Roman Emperors (Illustrated)* (Kindle Locations 2502-2504). Didactic Press. Kindle Edition.

than 5,500 inhabitants remained out of over 28,000 Huguenots”⁵⁴ in Cardinal Richelieu’s Siege of La Rochelle. These were slaughtered in one French City alone simply for worshipping God in a different way than the King. These Wars, or rather their exigencies, coupled with the hope and promise of America is what principally bonded the early settler communities of what is now considered the United States of America. Ironically today we find ourselves in a World where a Country which under the leadership of conservative Christians, has promoted and sought the expansion of Christianity, proselytizing at levels not seen since the fall of Rome, now being labeled the “Second Coming” of that villainous, yet cultured civilization. This the Pope’s have explained is due to we as American’s regarded as too wrapped up in materialistic things, wreaking havoc on the world, and its faithful communities, and not adhering to strict doxology as pertains to the christian faith. I’m not here to re-litigate the accusations of the past, but rather discuss a way in which we can somehow come to terms with each other, and through an Ecumenical Council, repair the breach which has been for so long broken in the Church. I would first propose that the Pope do two things the first is to announce that he would like to hold a Papal Council which will be to discuss breaches in the Faith which led to the Protestant divisions. He should not reach out to anyone in particular but should instead leave it up to the Protestant Hierarchies to mend the fissures which exist between them, and present a united front which the Pope can then speak to. This part of the process is expected to take some time. The next part will be to set a date for a Papal Protestant Council which will be held in Rome. This council will seek to iron out the differences in dogma between the individual churches and can be seen as one of many steps which would need to be taken before the church can be whole once more. The next thing that I would like for the Pope to do is to call an Ecumenical Council before the Church of Rome. This Council would include all of the Protestant Churches

⁵⁴ [wikipedia.com Les Affres Du Siège, Siège de La Rochelle \(1627-1628\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siège_de_La_Rochelle_(1627-1628)), At: [https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siège_de_La_Rochelle_\(1627-1628\)](https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siège_de_La_Rochelle_(1627-1628)), Accessed 02/18/17

which met with the pope during the first council, and would also include the Eastern, Russian, and Greek orthodox Churches; including the Coptic Christians. This Council should seek to further cement the gains which the Pope has made with Metropolitan Kirill, as well as any gains which the Americans have made with the Russian President Vladimir Putin on these matters.⁵⁵ The Ecumenical Council should not be about rehashing old grievances, but rather solidifying the gains and agreement made between the parties in the intervening years since the visit by Pope Francis I to America in 2015. This year also saw the Celebration of the 1,000 year millennial celebration by the Russian Orthodox Church, which saw Metropolitan Kirill in attendance, as well as President Vladimir Putin, of Russia. The second council, or summit should focus only on that which has already been established to be talked about, and that which has been agreed upon before hand, in a bi-cameral forum, during a summit. I understand that this is a lot which is asked of the current, and future heads of state in the United States, and France, however if we are to move closer together in a cohesive, and unified front against all enemies both foreign and domestic, then it is incumbent upon them to also unite their respective populations; one majority catholic, and the other majority protestant. The recent upheavals of nationalism and anti-semitism in both Europe, and America should be reason enough to consider such extant subjects, before its too late. I understand that this will not an easy task which is why I feel that this subject has the least likelihood of being brought up or engaging the French government with.

⁵⁵ Jim Yardley, Pope and Russian Orthodox Leader Meet in Historic Step, NYTIMES.com, <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/13/world/americas/pope-arrives-in-cuba-for-historic-meeting-with-russian-orthodox-leader.html>, Accessed: 2/18/16

Implementing Cohesive And Tactical Thematics In Which To Engage The French And European Governments With

The next portion of my paper will touch upon what I feel is the best way of implementing the subjects, and thematics which were touched upon in the earlier section. An order to accomplish this I intend on matter-of-factly ranking the aforementioned subjects based upon how palatable the subjects are to the French and European interlocutors. And also how likely they are to succeed. If a subject is palatable— but injurious to relations at This time then it will be ranked lower than all the other subjects which are likely to succeed, however are maybe not as palatable to the intended audience. I then place each Idea into boxes with numbers denoting there strength and weakness. With one(1) being the best idea to implement first, and nine(9) being the last idea which should be attempted to be implemented. I also take pains to assign the ideas in the boxes with individual jargon. This jargon will have numerical percentages assigned to them an order to better clarify their definitions. This is an attempt to further clarify the numerical rankings of how likely they are to succeed. The jargon which I use and the percentage assigned to them is as follows: “Most Likely To Succeed” (85%-100%), “Likely To Succeed” (75%-84%), “Might Succeed” (65%-74%), “Might Not Succeed” (64%-45%), and “Will Not Succeed” (44% >). The idea that the recent, and stirring death of Vitaly Churkin, the Russian Ambassador to the United Nations does not go unnoticed by the author. And if anything this new development only strengthens the thesis which I’m preparing for your consumption and only quickens the hands

which write these words as a testament to the novelty of the approach which this author is advocating an order to better cross Atlantic relations.

The ranking and charting of the ideas is as follows:

- 1.Sanctioning Russian Oil and Gas: An American Gambit**
- 2.Prevention of Turkish Accession into Shanghai Cooperation Organization**
- 3.The Syrian War and Russian War Expenditures**
- 4.Rafic Hariri Special Tribunal And Assad's Ouster**
- 5.Russian Intransigence In The Security Council And Elsewhere**
- 6.Ballistic Missile Defense, and our European Partners**
- 7.The Future Of The NATO Alliance**
- 8.The Church And Its Ecumenical Papal Authority**

French and European Diplomatic Suasion Chart

Subject Presented	Ranking	Determined Outcome
Sanctioning Russian Oil and Gas	1	Most Likely To Succeed
The Syrian War and Russian War Expenditures	2	Likely To Succeed
Rafic Hariri Special Tribunal And Assad's Ouster	3	Likely To Succeed
Russian Intransigence In The Security Council And Elsewhere	4	Might Succeed
Prevention of Turkish Accession into Shanghai Cooperation Organization	5	Might Succeed
Ballistic Missile Defense, and our European Partners	6	Might Succeed
The Future Of The NATO Alliance	7	Might Succeed
The Church And Its Ecumenical Papal Authority	8	Might Not Succeed

Conclusion

The arc of events as it currently exist in Europe is one of instability. This new normal is due almost entirely in part to the intransigence, and aggression of the waning yet still potent Russian government, in addition to the continued threat of Islamic Fundamentalism in the region. In this paper I have elucidated and elaborated on the threats which the United States, and its European allies face in what is considered a pivotal moment in the relations of Europe both with itself, as well as the outside world. In its first month the new United States Trump Administration has taken a keen interest in the affairs of Europe as it begins to shape its own foreign policy with the world. Insomuch as can be ascertained through traditional media accounts. If this is a pivotal moment for Europe, then all the more for the United States as it tries to revitalize a part of U.S. policy making which was moribund by the end of the previous Administration. If there is to be an attempt to “Make America Great Again” as the new Administration suggest. Then certainly this moniker implies that it will begin in the domestic economic, and political life of the United States. However it shouldn't be, and in many ways has not been overlooked by the current Administration that if the United States hopes to defeat radical Islamic terrorism and secure peace for itself and its allies abroad, then it will need to garner the favor and geo-political capital necessary to embark on a rebuilding of cordial relations. The suggestions and ideas which I have presented in this paper, I hope, will add to the official canon of what can be done to promote, and

strengthen the bonds which the United States, and Europe already possess. And though it is ultimately up to President Trump and his Administration as to what will and will not be done. It is in no small way that I hope to influence the Administrations thinking and logic on the matter as they begin this great and awesome task before them.