



**Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R – CA) answers a few questions from the President of the American University in Moscow Edward Lozansky about current state of U.S. – Russia relations and the tragic events in Ukraine**

**Is it a wise policy for the U.S. to support the Ukrainian government decision to seek a military solution in the ongoing civil war with the South-Eastern parts of the country instead of encouraging both sides to negotiate a settlement?**

The United States seems to be basing all of our policies in the Ukraine as if it's ninety-nine percent right on one side and one percent right on the other and that's just not the way it is.

The fact is that what's going on there has positives and negatives on both of the players in this conflict and the United States by jumping in whole heartedly the way we did ignored some of the warning signs.

In Ukraine we had an elected president [Yanukovich] who was actually facing a violent opposition on the streets which doesn't mean that he should be discarded. But that was what was going on and we all of a sudden jumped to the side of the people on the streets. Instead, the United States should not be encouraging either side to use violence. We should not be encouraging certainly the Russians and the Russian speaking people in Ukraine to declare their independence and taking over buildings by force but neither should we have given carte blanche to the Ukrainian and the anti-Russian nationalists who have precipitated much of the violence that exists there as well.

**Does the policy of sanctions against Russia serve the best interests of the United States?**

I don't think this is a situation in which the United States should have jumped in with full force behind one side or the other especially in a way that could negatively impact both the economy and national security of our country. We need to work with Russia where we can; we need to work with Russia to confront radical Islam, and many other mutual threats. The United States coming down so strong on Ukraine which as you say is not an open and shut case puts in jeopardy our own well-being and I think that sanctions was a foolish thing to do. We should have tried to play a positive role on both sides including reaching out to Mr. Putin instead of vilifying him. Instead we gave our total support to the anti-Russian segment of the Ukrainian society. They had some points going for them but the other side had points going for them too.

**In your opinion, is there a constructive agenda for U.S. - Russia relations?**

Edward, this is so important that we reach out to each other and try to get over this current situation but to be fair about it what's going on in Ukraine has been a long time in coming. The United States has not in my way of thinking been recognizing the positive things that Russia has done since the collapse of communism. So many of my own colleagues and friends who as I were cold warriors all of those years when communism dominated the Soviet Union are still stuck in the cold war mentality. Instead, we should be reaching out to each other and trying to overcome some of these problems that have been a long time in the making. Russia wasn't treated fairly at an equal level after they discarded communism which they should have been and which they were promised by the United States.

So, we are in a very tight spot right now, there are animosities building between Moscow and Washington and we've got to overcome that and reach out to each other. America and Russia will be safer and more prosperous if we work together rather than trying to square off and draw the line in the sand and say let's duke it out. No, that's not the way to handle this. Let's reach out with our open arms and shake hands and try to find some common ground and get over this problem we are in right now.





The widow of Vasily Burov, member of the self-defense forces of the Donetsk People's Republic killed near Gorlovka, at the cemetery outside Donetsk. 05/31/2014  
Maksim Blinov/RIA Novosti



A victim of the armed clash outside Karlivka village, Donetsk Region. 05/23/2014  
Natalia Seliverstova/RIA Novosti

## The Silence of American Hawks About Kiev's Atrocities

For weeks, the US-backed regime in Kiev has been committing atrocities against its own citizens in southeastern Ukraine, regions heavily populated by Russian-speaking Ukrainians and ethnic Russians. While victimizing a growing number of innocent people, including children, and degrading America's reputation, these military assaults on cities, captured on video, are generating pressure in Russia on President Vladimir Putin to "save our compatriots." Both the atrocities and the pressure on Putin have increased even more since July 1, when Kiev, after a brief cease-fire, intensified its artillery and air attacks on eastern cities defenseless against such weapons. The reaction of the Obama administration—as well as the new cold-war hawks in Congress and in the establishment media—has been twofold: silence interrupted only by occasional statements excusing and thus encouraging more atrocities by Kiev...

Since May, however, Kiev has repeatedly carried out artillery and air attacks on city centers that have struck residential buildings, shopping malls, parks, schools, kindergartens and hospitals. More and more urban areas, neighboring towns and even villages now look and sound like war zones, with telltale rubble, destroyed and pockmarked buildings, mangled vehicles, the dead and wounded in streets, wailing mourners and crying children....

The Obama administration continues to make the situation worse. Despite opposition by several NATO allies and even American corporate heads, the president and his secretary of state, who has spoken throughout this crisis more like a secretary of war than the nation's top diplomat, have constantly threatened Russia with harsher economic sanctions unless Putin meets one condition or another, most of them improbable.

**Stephen F. Cohen**, professor of Russian studies and history at New York University and Princeton - *The Nation*



Women in a house destroyed during the night artillery attack conducted by Ukrainian troops on the outskirts of Slavyansk. 05/20/2014. Andrey Stenin/RIA Novosti



A resident of Semyonovka village hides in a cellar during artillery shelling. 06/05/2014  
Andrey Stenin/RIA Novosti

## The Washington Post Declares War on Russia

As if more evidence were needed that pronouncements by Fred Hiatt's Washington Post editorial page with regard to Russia and Ukraine ought to be treated with extreme skepticism, if not outright ignored, last Friday's offering, which calls for the United States to enact unilateral sanctions on Russia should suffice. In the end, what this piece amounts to is a demand by the Post for the United States to engage in economic warfare against Russia, all the while glorying in the actual warfare being waged by Kiev against both armed rebels and unarmed civilians. Could it be the Post wants its new Cold War to turn hot?

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A woman in her house damaged during the night artillery attack conducted by Ukrainian troops on the outskirts of Slavyansk. 05/20/2014. Andrey Stenin/RIA Novosti



A militiaman nicknamed Granddad at one of the checkpoints outside Lugansk. 06/06/2014. Evgeny Biyatov/RIA Novosti

conflict, or the neocon plan falls apart, which it will if they can't demonize Putin as a "dangerous aggressor" who can't be trusted as a business partner.

So all Putin has to do is sit-tight and he wins, mainly because the EU needs Moscow's gas. If energy supplies are terminated or drastically reduced, prices will rise, the EU will slide back into recession, and Washington will take the blame. So Washington has a very small window to draw Putin into the fray, which is why we should expect another false flag incident on a much larger scale than the fire in Odessa. Washington is going to have to do something really big and make it look like it was Moscow's doing. Otherwise, their pivot plan is going to hit a brick wall.

**I**n Ukraine, the US is using a divide-and-conquer strategy to pit the EU against trading partner Moscow. The State Department and CIA helped to topple Ukraine's elected President Viktor Yanukovich and install a US stooge in Kiev who was ordered to cut off the flow of Russian gas to the EU and lure Putin into a protracted guerilla war in Ukraine. The bigwigs in Washington figured that, with some provocation, Putin would react the same way he did when Georgia invaded South Ossetia in 2006. But, so far, Putin has resisted the temptation to get involved which is why new puppet president Petro Poroshenko has gone all "Jackie Chan" and stepped up the provocations by pummeling east Ukraine mercilessly. It's just a way of goading Putin into sending in the tanks.

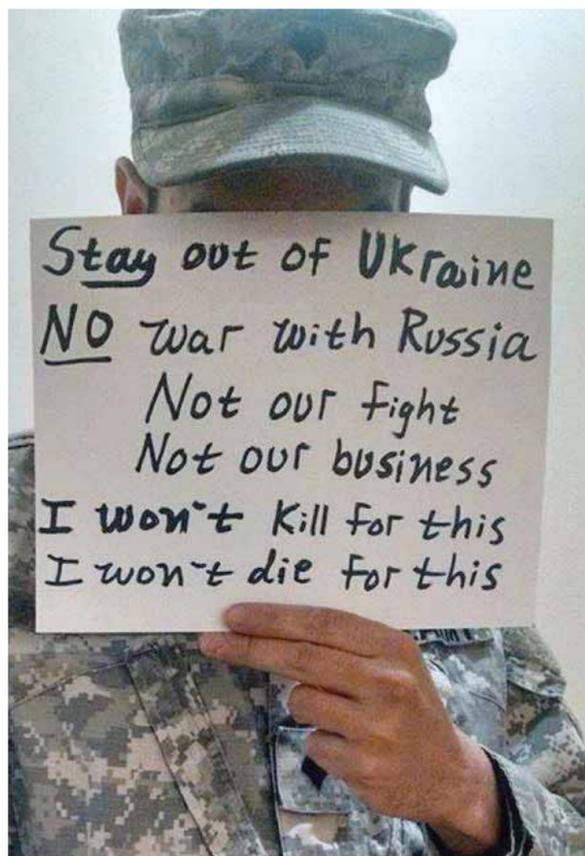


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But here's the odd part: Washington doesn't have a back-up plan. It's obvious by the way Poroshenko keeps doing the

same thing over and over again expecting a different result. That demonstrates that there's no Plan B. Either Poroshenko lures Putin across the border and into the

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Someone might remind Poroshenko of the embarrassingly bloody nose that the Russians gave Georgia's then-President Mikheil Saakashvili in August 2008 when he sent Georgian forces to attack the city of Tskhinvali in South Ossetia. Moscow justified its military retaliation as necessary to prevent the killing of Russians as well as the Ossetians in the area.

Ultimately, President George W. Bush and then-Republican presidential candidate John McCain, who had encouraged Saakashvili's adventurism, were powerless to protect him -

*Ray McGovern, Former CIA analyst, served as chief of CIA's Soviet Foreign Policy Branch as well as preparer/briefer of the President's Daily Brief.*

