

The Ukraine Conflict: What's Behind It?

Why Is it Important?

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“When the methods of Information War in Fourth Generation Warfare are used in Total War, it results in a war upon the psyche, a war upon cognition, a war upon our very conception and understanding of reality. This will be an increasing feature of our relationship with reality.”

Joaquin Flores, “[Russia vs. US: Total War is the Obliteration of Reality](#),”
Fort Russ (blog), July 2015



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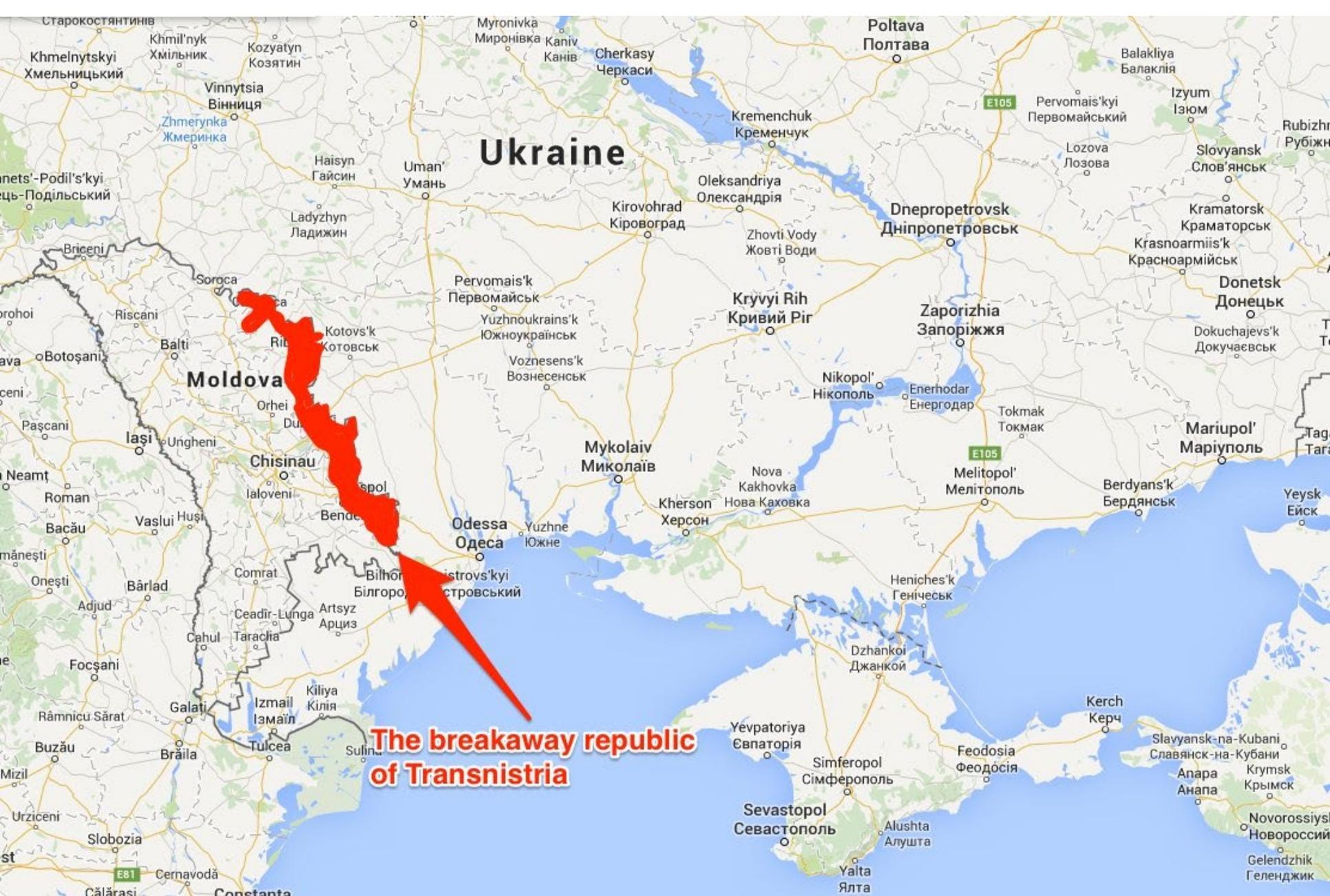
General Agenda

- Thank you
- Selected aspects of the Ukrainian crisis, ~20 minutes
- Q&A, discussion re Ukraine, U.S./Russian relations, etc., ~20 minutes
- What can we do? ~10 minutes
 - The importance of young and old working together in enduring contexts
 - Full-time, independent activists supported by the community
 - The importance of the Pope's integral, historic message to our work
- Discussion ~20+ minutes



September 26, 2015





**The breakaway republic
of Transnistria**



September 26, 2015

Why Ukraine?

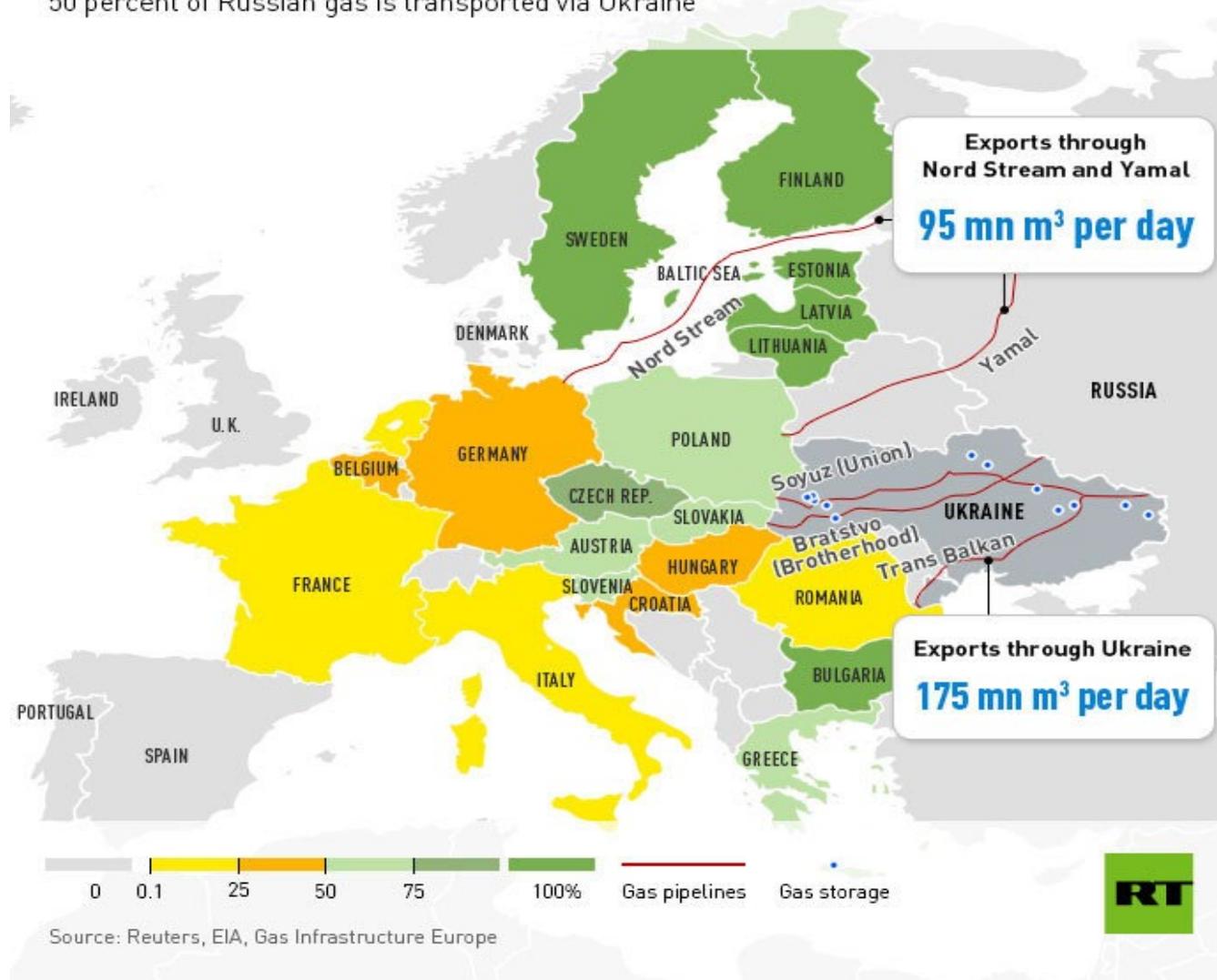
- Beginning in late 2013 or early 2014 at the latest, mainstream US news media achieved close to a complete break with reality, over Ukraine. This is not just the Big Lie from a single source; it is nearly universal. No dissenting views are presented in elite and popular media. Many people have noticed that this is unprecedented in our lifetimes (Ilargi at [The Automatic Earth](#), Robert Parry at [Consortium News](#), [James Kunstler](#)). As Ilargi points out, in 2014 breathtaking, detailed claims potentially affecting the US existentially were being made *without any proof whatsoever*.
- This is obviously very dangerous. Creation of unrebutted false history marks a totalitarian shift and is normal only for societies falling into totalitarianism (Hedges). Violence inevitably results, including violence against the weak in society.
- It is a cultivated aspect of what I think is an increasing mass psychosis which could make the US incapable of rational response to *any* crisis (cf. [Orlov](#), citing Freud).
- Government is the first victim of its own lies, and amplifies them. We see this.
- The Ukraine (and Syrian) crises have deep, enduring roots and will affect everything that happens henceforth in arms control and disarmament, US government budgets, the US social contract, fuel supplies, and our ability to confront climate collapse.
- The Ukraine crisis writ large directly threatens nuclear war, and is therefore very germane to the work of this organization – to disarmament and to arms control.

Why Ukraine, p. 2?

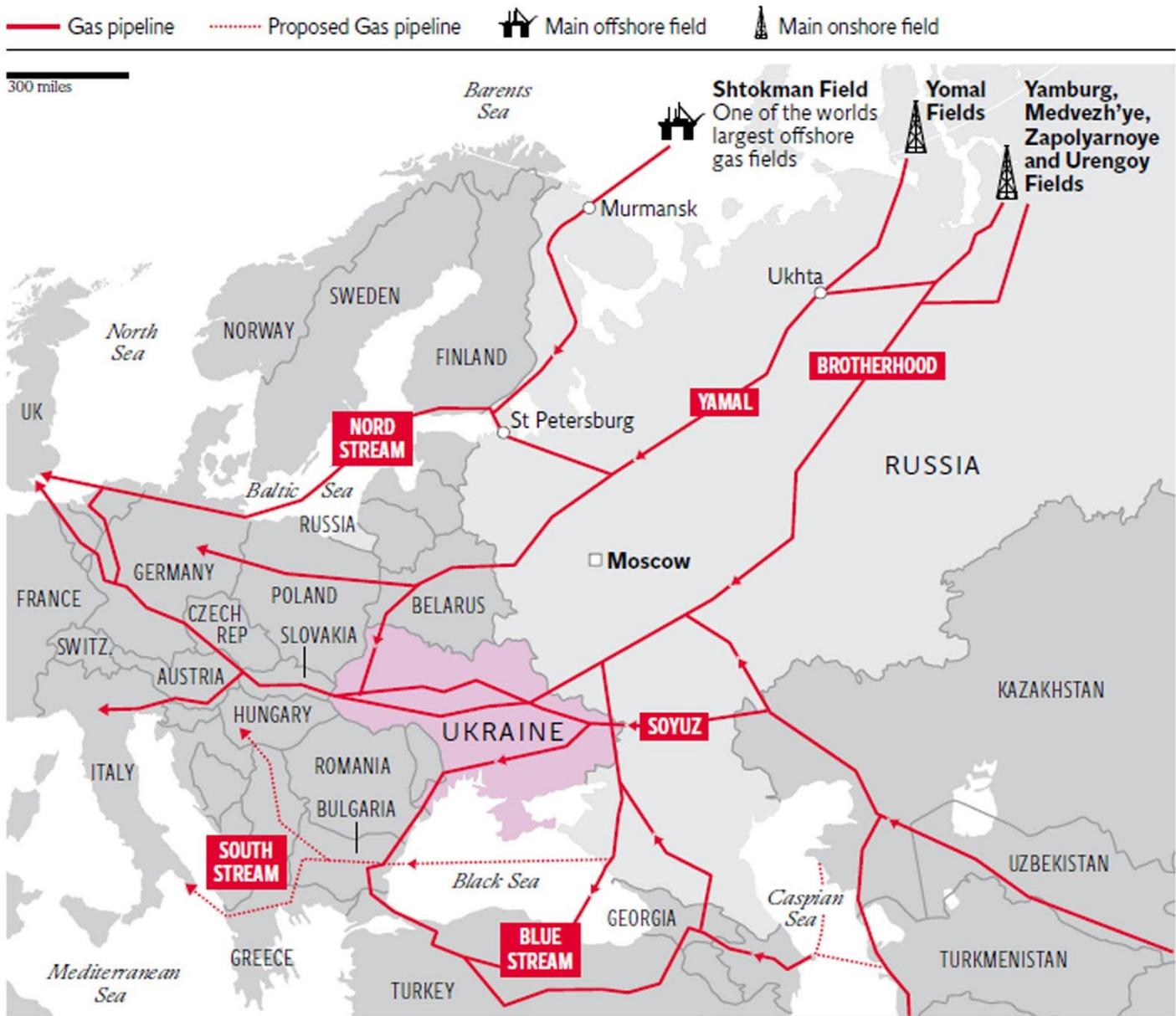
- Roughly in Europe's geographical center; borders 7 countries including a long border with Russia. After European Russia, Europe's largest country by land area.
- Resources, agriculture, aerospace and other key industries, exporting to Russia or available for plucking via the "Shock Doctrine."
- Russia's southwestern gateway to Europe; pivotal geographic location. If the goal is to isolate Russia from Europe, Ukraine is essential.
- Major gas transit country to western Europe from Russia.
- Sevastopol in Crimea is headquarters for Russia's Black Sea fleet, and a warm-water seaport from which Russia can defend the region and itself.
- Home to corrupt oligarchs in post-Soviet time; economic failure and lower standard of living than under Soviets; somewhat artificial boundaries (Lenin, Khrushchev, post-Soviet?); useful nationalist and Nazi past, neo-Nazi groups present for use as thugs; populace easily stirred by color revolution techniques *against* government and *for* European integration and travel for work, study, & living.
- Therefore: an excellent location, perhaps none better, in and from which to pursue hybrid war against Russia. Even a failed state in Ukraine would be (is) a major headache for Russia, so it is not necessary to "win" the geopolitical contest there.

Russian gas in Europe

Russia is Europe's biggest gas supplier providing 30 percent of the continent's needs
50 percent of Russian gas is transported via Ukraine



MAIN RUSSIAN GAS PIPELINES TO EUROPE



September 26, 2015



September 26, 2015

[Gorbachev Interview, Der Spiegel 1/16/2015](#): 'I Am Truly and Deeply Concerned'

SPIEGEL: Do you think it is possible there could be another major war in Europe?

Gorbachev: Such a scenario shouldn't even be considered. Such a war today would inevitably lead to a nuclear war. But the statements from both sides and the propaganda lead me to fear the worst. If one side loses its nerves in this inflamed atmosphere, then we won't survive the coming years.

SPIEGEL: Aren't you overstating things a bit?

Gorbachev: I don't say such things lightly. I am a man with a conscience. But that's the way things are. I am truly and deeply concerned.

SPIEGEL: The new Russian military doctrine labels NATO's eastern expansion and the "reinforcement of NATO's offensive capabilities" as one of the primary threats facing Russia. Do you agree?

Gorbachev: NATO's eastward expansion has destroyed the European security architecture as it was defined in the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. The eastern expansion was a 180-degree reversal, a departure from the decision of the Paris Charter in 1990 taken together by all the European states to put the Cold War behind us for good. Russian proposals, like the one by former President Dmitri Medvedev that we should sit down together to work on a new security architecture, were arrogantly ignored by the West. We are now seeing the results.

Why did we do this?

We do not need to re-invent the wheel.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x9tJw49mgOY&index=10&list=UUaZOism_rEmMLl7rcGprCPQ

Why is the US involved in Ukraine? Why are we supporting neo-Nazis in Ukraine?
4 min video emphasizing Brzezinski and global primacy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-RyOaFwcEw&index=11&list=UUaZOism_rEmMLl7rcGprCPQ

Hour-long video “US support of violent neo-Nazis in Ukraine: Video Compilation”

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=UUaZOism_rEmMLl7rcGprCPQ

These are more St. Pete for Peace vids.

Humanitarian Disaster

- The goal: ethnic cleansing (similar to Hitler, actually – empty the land by any means necessary). Poroshenko explicitly called for shelling of cities *and children*, use of terror tactics. Nazi/Neo-Nazi battalions sent into cities.
- Rebellion sparked by mass killings in Odessa, bus of protesters on highway, stripping of civil rights of specific ethnic groups by legislation, arrival of Nazi thugs and troops, murders – everybody saw from which way the storm was coming
- The result: several thousand direct deaths, many civilian. German intelligence says the death toll is ten times higher, which would be more reasonable given limited and food, heat, medicine, lack of housing, and extreme stress. Counting dead fighters always undercounts.
- Several hundred thousand or a million refugees fleeing into Russia (per Kiev plan)
- The usual list of sorrows. This is a real war, on a large scale.
- Trailer (4:28): [The Anna Tuv Story](#). Enormous amounts of photographic, video, and witness evidence.
- [Rep. Rohrabacher vs. Samantha Power on shelling of Ukraine](#)

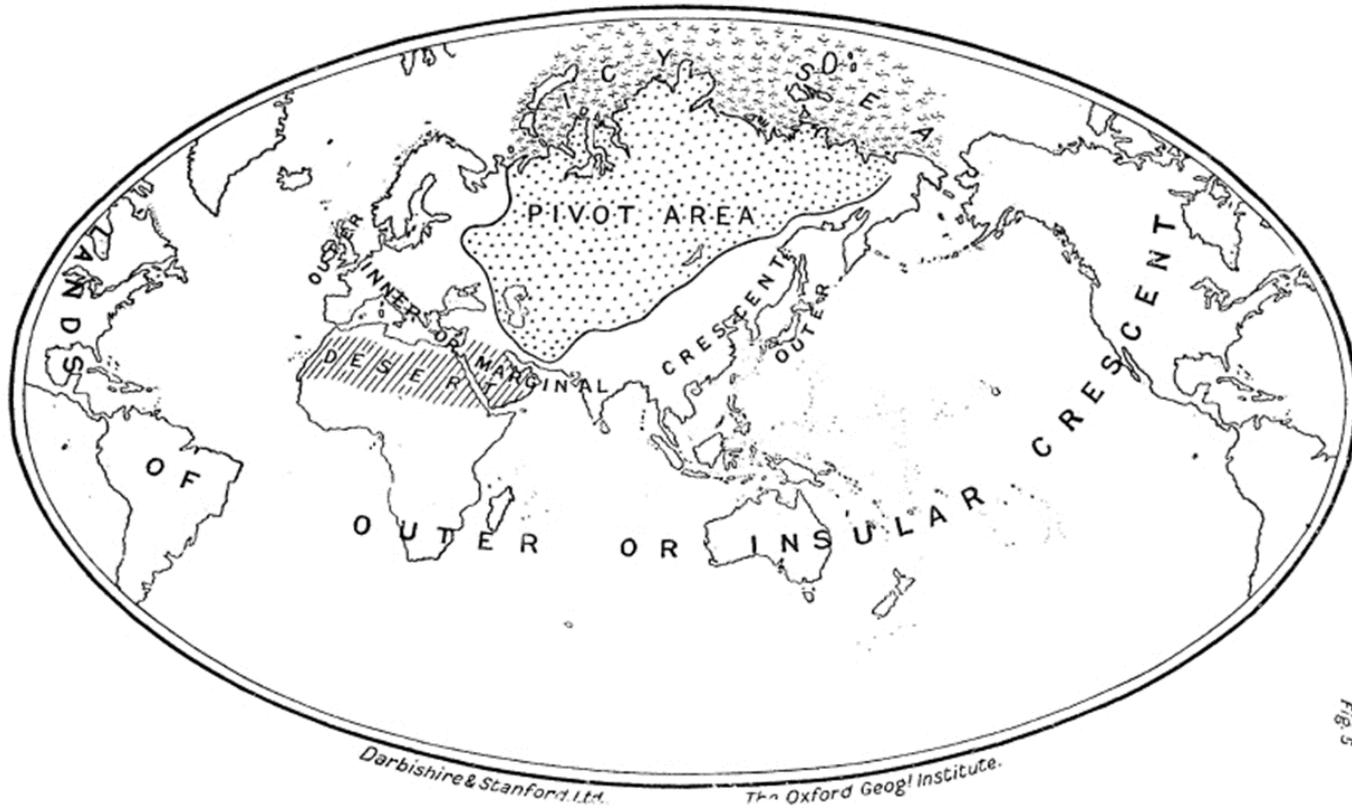
Geopolitical trail markers (apologies to historians)

- 19th and early 20th century *Mitteleuropa* concept (e.g. Bismarck)
- Harolf Mackinder, 1904: "Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland."
- Karl Haushofer, reading Mackinder, and Adolf Hitler agree, and Hitler invades
- George Kennan, 1946 and 1947, "containment" as imperial succession; Allen Dulles; encircling Russia with alliances (NATO, SEATO, Middle East TO (METO), later Central TO (CENTO), US-Japan Security Treaty)
- Brzezinski, Carter, Reagan, "Operation Cyclone" in Afghanistan
- Wolfowitz, 1992, "Draft Defense Planning Guidance"

Our first objective is to prevent the re-emergence of a new rival. This is a dominant consideration underlying the new regional defense strategy and requires that we endeavor to prevent any hostile power from dominating a region whose resources would, under consolidated control, be sufficient to generate global power. These regions include Western Europe, East Asia, the territory of the former Soviet Union, and Southwest Asia.

- Brzezinski, 1997, *The Grand Chessboard: American Primacy and Its Geostrategic Imperatives*
- GW Bush/Dick Cheney/Wolfowitz administration: formal National Security Strategy and action
- 2015 National Military Strategy of the United States of America – global hegemony an explicit objective, along with "preservation and extension of universal values" (!?)

Mackinder, in Alfred McCoy, "[The Geopolitics of American Global Decline: Washington Versus China in the Twenty-First Century](#)"



THE GEOGRAPHICAL PIVOT OF HISTORY.

Fig. 5

THE NATURAL SEATS OF POWER.

Pivot area—wholly continental. Outer crescent—wholly oceanic. Inner crescent—partly continental, partly oceanic.

CHINA-CENTRAL ASIA INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



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THE SINO-MYANMAR PIPELINE



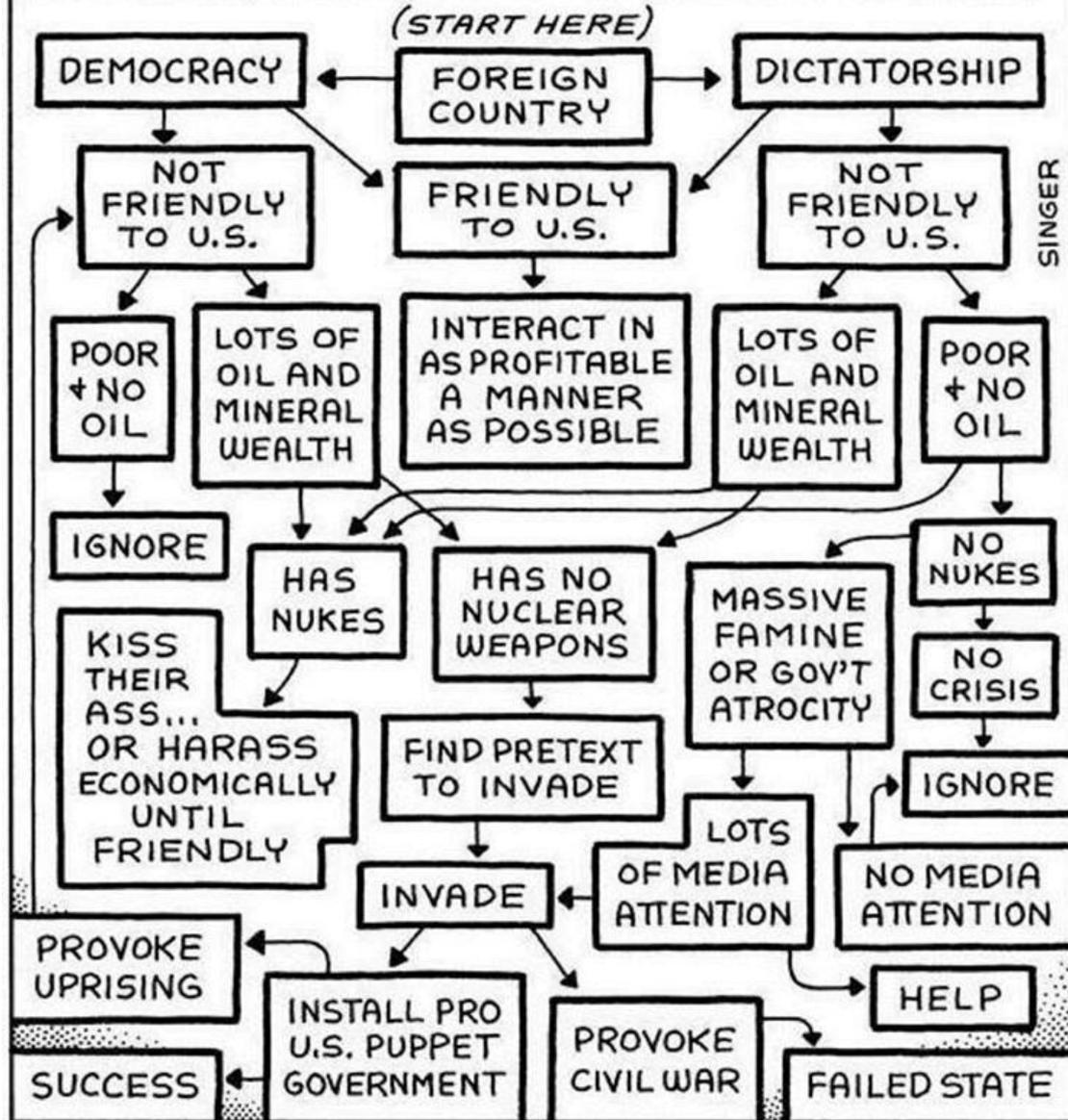
September 26, 2015

Pope Francis, September 25, United Nations General Assembly:

The Preamble and the first Article of the Charter of the United Nations set forth the foundations of the international juridical framework: peace, the pacific solution of disputes and the development of friendly relations between the nations. Strongly opposed to such statements, and in practice denying them, is the constant tendency to the proliferation of arms, especially weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons. An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction – and possibly the destruction of all mankind – are self-contradictory and an affront to the entire framework of the United Nations, which would end up as “nations united by fear and distrust”. There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons.



HERE'S A HANDY
U.S. FOREIGN POLICY FLOW CHART



SINGER

ENDS