The Russian invasion of Ukraine and annexation of Crimea!
(The Russian objectives in Ukraine)
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Crimea was an autonomous Tatar republic until 1945. After occupying Crimea, the Russians deported the Tatars to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan for alleged collaboration with the Germans, a Soviet method of “ethnic cleansing” that was also applied during the rule of the Russian Tsars. The Tsarist Russia’s expansion into the Balkans in the mid-nineteenth century resulted in the Crimean War (1853-1856) between Russia and a coalition of Great Britain, France and Turkey. Thus, Crimea has never been an indigenous Russian-settled area, but only a Russian-military occupied territory. The recent incursion by the Russian clandestine forces into Ukrainian territory is also reminiscent of the Stalin-Hitler Pact of 1939 and its “spheres of influence” that resulted in the Soviet/Russian-German occupation of Poland, followed by Stalin’s forced-upon treaties of mutual assistance with the Baltic States, and, finally the occupation of the Baltic States and Moldova by the Soviets-Russians in 1940; Finland refused to submit and wound up being attacked by the Soviets-Russians, losing territory to Russia. We can see today that current Russia’s leadership is once again following the same path of aggression - that of Tsarist Russia, the Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin and now under Putin using the guise of a “doctrine to defend Russians abroad”; all of this is at the expense of other nations “close abroad”. In order to fully appreciate the situation in Ukraine today, we must first understand the history and the brutal policies carried out by the Soviets-Russians in Ukraine during 1917-1953; those brutal events of the past in essence form the basis for the events taking place today in Ukraine. We must also keep in mind that the Ukrainian nation is ethnically a separate and linguistically distinct nation; they are not Russians, even if they speak Russian.

The current armed conflict taking place in Ukraine (Lugansk, Donets, Mariupol, etc.) are the direct result of a deliberate plan being carried out by Moscow, a follow-up to their relatively recent “victory” that Russia carried out in their aggression against Georgia; that armed aggression also resulted in an “independent and autonomous nation” at the expense of its neighbor Georgia. The past history of the Soviet Union and today’s Russia, and the recent events in Ukraine, indicate that Russia’s long-term objective may include not only the occupation and annexation Crimea, but also the establishment of a continuous land route connecting Russia to Crimea; that would also cut off the Ukrainians from their coal-rich regions of eastern Ukraine. It is also clear, from statements made and actions taken by various pro-Russian factions (so called Russian “self-defense forces”) in Ukraine, that the Moscow-Putin objective may also be the annexation, not only of the eastern provinces, but also of the entire Black Sea coastal regions of Ukraine, including the region of Odessa and the coastal regions next to Moldova; thereafter, Moldova could be next on Russia’s invasion-occupation list.

To fully understand the situation in Ukraine, let us review the relatively recent history of Ukraine, spanning less than the lifetime of a person (1917-1991). During the Bolshevik revolution of 1917 in Russia, the Ukrainian nation found politically favorable conditions and a chance for self-determination; and, on June 10, 1917 the Ukrainians declared their autonomy.
Map of Ukraine: Parts of western Ukraine were added to Ukraine at the expense of Poland, including a small area of Slovakia, as a result of WWII. The area south of Moldova, once part of Romania, was occupied by the Soviets as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact and WWII and added to Ukraine. Crimea's indigenous people are the Tatars. The majority of the Tatars were either deported or killed by the Russians during the numerous Soviet-era purges; some sources indicate that out of the 5,000,000 Tatars that once lived in Crimea and the adjacent areas only 300,000 survive. The Tatar land, homes and other property were given to Russian colonizers, who arrived after each “ethnic cleansing operation” carried out by the Soviets-Russians.

On July 3, 1917, the Russian Bolshevik revolutionary government supported the Ukrainian autonomy, because the Bolsheviks themselves were hard-pressed in consolidating their own power in Russia. A few months later, on November 7, 1917, the Ukrainians issued a proclamation for the formation of the Ukrainian National Republic (UNR) and declared their independence on January 9, 1918. To be sure, these events in Ukraine were not to the liking of the Bolsheviks in Moscow; after creating the Russian National Commissar Committee (Vladimir Lenin, Lev Trotsky, Joseph Stalin) on December 12, 1917, the Soviets essentially declared war against UNR, while simultaneously consolidating their power in Russia and in other territories of the former Russian Empire. At the same time, other subjugated nations (Finns, Estonians, Latvians, Lithuanians and Poles) had also declared their independence and were engaged in armed conflict (1918-1920) against the Bolsheviks and the Red Army of the
Soviet Union; all of these nations achieved their independence (1918-1920), even though Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland were later invaded by the Soviet Union (1939-1940) as a result of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of August 23, 1939 that initiated World War II. Ukraine was known as the “bread basket” of the Tsarist Russian Empire; the Bolsheviks-Russians had no intention of letting Ukraine go its own way. By 1919, the Bolsheviks had nearly consolidated their power in Russia and were now turning their full attention to Ukraine by introducing a new terror tactic – “artificial famine” to control the political situation and population in Ukraine. Their objective was to eliminate the Ukrainian farmers’ strong stance against the Soviet-Russian-Kremlin policies. Soviet propaganda was directed against the Ukrainian “kulaks” (well-to-do farmers). In August, 1919, Lenin stated, “The kulaks are the Soviets’ most ferocious enemies…. They must be subdued without mercy! Death to them!” Shortly later, Soviet-Russian Army units and Bolshevik interior security forces descended upon the Ukrainian countryside, spreading terror, famine, brutality and death throughout the land; thereafter, life was never the same in Ukraine.

Red Army troops literally robbed the Ukrainian farmers (at gun-point) of millions of tons of grain and took it without any compensation; at that time, the rural population comprised 80%+ of the total population of Ukraine. Needless to say, tens of thousands of Ukrainians revolted against the Bolsheviks-Communists, the Soviet-state sponsored robbery and the mass murders that were taking place under the supervision of the Cheka (original name of the Soviet secret police, later succeeded by GPU/NKVD/KGB, etc.). In fact, the Bolsheviks-Communists of Soviet Russia, during the 1920-1921 period, introduced to the World a new weapon - an “artificially created famine” that they used as an instrument of terror against the Ukrainian population to implement their murderous policies in territories under their control. The Soviet Union and Russia have tried to hide these historical events for years - unsuccessfully.

The above noted Soviet policies were extremely devastating to the Soviet economy and they backed off from it for a few years. Thus, in 1921, the Soviets-Russians introduced a “new economic policy” (NEP), which was also used in Russia, that lasted from 1921 until 1928; the NEP allowed free-market and commercial activity at the discretion of the
farmers themselves, a common sense approach that had existed before the revolution. Thus, the Ukrainian farmers got a short reprieve from repression and were able to restore some semblance of farm production that the Soviets had managed to destroy in just a couple of years earlier. This period also gave the Ukrainians a chance to become more independent and to restore their own deprived language and culture at the national level. Statistics indicate that by 1926, 97% of Ukrainian children were studying in their own native language — Ukrainian. However, there were other events on the horizon, which drastically changed the Ukrainian lives forever. On December 30, 1922, the Communists managed to create the Ukrainian Soviet Socialists Republic and essentially annexed it as part of the Soviet Union. In the meantime, Joseph Stalin became the General Secretary of the Communist Central Committee in Russia, while Lenin headed the Commissars Committee of the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Also, the dreadful Cheka, known later as GPU, NKVD, KGB, etc., was centralized by 1923 under Felix Dzerzhinski; after Lenin’s death, Stalin and other Soviet dictators utilized the Cheka as an instrument of terror against the people of the Soviet Union, but especially against the various ethnic minorities in USSR, such as the Tatars of Crimea and the Ukrainians in Ukraine and elsewhere. By 1920, Finland, Estonia, Latvia and Poland had become independent nations and the Soviet Union (Russia) forever renounced any claims against these nations and recognized their independence and territorial integrity; however, history teaches us that Russia does not keep its promises or treaty obligations, as we see it now in Ukraine with the Russian occupation of Crimea in violation of international law and signed treaties.

After Lenin’s death in 1924, Stalin assumed dictatorial powers in USSR. By 1928, Moscow-Kremlin became very concerned about the widespread Ukrainian national movement and the espoused idea that the “….state’s policy is to allow the development of culture, which for an extended time had been artificially oppressed and restricted.” Stalin and his cronies were worried about the strong and growing Ukrainian patriotism — the emerging Ukrainian elite and Ukrainian pride about their culture and language; also, Stalin did not like the strong national independence stance taken by the Ukrainian farmers. Thus, in 1928, the Soviets-Russians launched a new, two-prong wave of terror against the Ukrainian nation. First, tens of thousands of Cheka-led Soviet-Russian internal security personnel descended upon the Ukrainian farms and started the confiscation of grain from the Ukrainian farmers; second, in 1929, the Soviets-Moscow carried out their long-standing program of nationalizing private property. In essence, that was an outright robbery of Ukrainian property — farms, livestock; food, etc. were seized and declared to be the property of the Soviet State. The seized grain and livestock were sent to Russia without compensation. In addition, the thousands of Soviet-Russian personnel and their supporters, who were engaged in carrying out this state-sponsored robbery and terror, were given the properties that they had taken away from the Ukrainians - for free, or for a negligible amount. Additionally, by 1929, the Soviets had managed to eliminate (kill or deport) around 30,000 of the Ukrainian elite — teachers, writers, politicians, etc. Ukrainians resisted this Soviet-led genocide against their nation. Nonetheless, the Soviets continued this wave of terror for 3-4 years throughout Ukraine. Ukrainian history testifies that, in addition to the daily atrocities carried out by the Soviets-Russians-Bolsheviks, 285,000 Ukrainian farm families (one million people or more) were deported from eastern and central Ukraine to Siberia; the
deported Ukrainian farms and property were given to Russian colonizers in such areas as Donetsk, Lugansk, etc. Most of the deported Ukrainian families perished in the cold and wilderness of Siberia and elsewhere. In addition, mass arrests of Ukrainian clergy took place in 1930 and virtually all churches became Soviet-Russian targets for destruction. Ukrainian resistance against these Soviet excesses reached its peak in the spring of 1930; Soviets-Russians responded by a new wave of terror and a total confiscation of Ukrainian grain, livestock and food-stuffs during 1930-1932.

Stalin stated on January 31, 1930, “....To liquidate the kulaks as a group, it is necessary to break their resistance in an open fight, denying them food and any chance for development.”

The net result was a deliberately created famine that took the lives of children and adults alike. People were searching for food everywhere, including fields that had already been harvested. This was the true face of Communism, hidden from the rest of the civilized World! This was also the way how the Soviets-Russians were building their “utopian Soviet State” by eliminating one ethnic group after another. The tragic result of this Soviet created famine was the mass deaths of millions of Ukrainians. There are estimates that at least 10.1 million Ukrainians perished; some Ukrainian sources claim that as many as 14 million Ukrainians died during this Moscow-led genocide in Ukraine. The Ukrainian National Museum research materials clearly place this “Moscow-led” crime against humanity on the shoulders of the Soviet-Russian leadership; one such document states that the Soviet policy was that “the ethnic material has to be replaced” (i.e., the Ukrainians have to be replaced by Russians). That is exactly what Soviets-Russians actually did. After the completion of this “artificial famine operation”, the Soviets imported hundreds of thousands of Russians into Ukraine.
Ukrainian researchers state that Russian colonizers from various regions of Russia arrived via railroad; for example, during the single month of December of 1933 alone, 329 trainloads of Russian colonizers arrived in the Ukrainian provinces, totaling 117,140 Russians; this process of colonization continued for many months or years thereafter. The sad part of these tragic events in Ukraine is that these were not the last terror acts to be experienced by the Ukrainians. New waves of barbarism took place during 1934-1953 and until the “old Soviet guard” was actually dead and buried. The criminal group, not all inclusive, that directed these crimes against humanity and the genocide against the Ukrainian nation are well known and are pictured below, including their thoughts and murderous actions against the Ukrainian nation.

Stalin, Joseph (The Secretary General of the USSR Communist Party and de-facto dictator of USSR): “Farmers comprise the main force of national movements… Without such force, there is no and never can be national movements. Therefore, the national question is, in fact, a farmers question.” (1930)

Kaganovich, Lazar Moiseyevich (Member of the USSR Central Committee): “We must prepare and begin taking action to fully carry out the mandatory grain collection plan, decisively overcoming the question of capitulating or giving in to grain collection problems....” (July 6, 1932)

Houtaevitch, Mendel M. (Secretary of Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee): “A struggle is taking place between the farmers and our executive institutions. It is a life or death fight. The famine showed them who is the boss here. Millions of lives were lost; nonetheless, the collective economic system will be able to survive. We won in this war...."

Balitsky, V. V. (Deputy Head of the Cheka-GPU in USSR and Head of the GPU in Ukraine): “The regional party apparatus have these concrete tasks...., The mobilization of all the secret service for the purpose of finding the hidden grain in dugouts, secret barns, garbage dumps and other hideaways.” (February 13, 1933)
Molotov, Vyacheslav Mikhailovich (Chairman of the USSR Commissar Committee and the Chairman of the Extraordinary Food Requisition Committee in Ukraine): “The question is this: If we have bread, then we shall have power of the Soviet. If we do not have bread, then Soviet power will be destroyed. Who has the bread today? The reactionary Ukrainian farmers and the reactionary Cossacks of Kabana have the bread. They will not give it to us voluntarily. We have to take it from them.” (1932)

We know that during the “ethnic cleansing operations” of the late 1930s, every ethnic group in the Soviet Union lost tens or hundreds of thousands of their people, such as the Tatars of Crimea - mass murders, torture, imprisonments and deportations. This Soviet-Russian imposed terror continued after WWII and, on a smaller scale, into 1980s. Indeed, President Ronald Reagan correctly named the Soviet Union as the “Evil Empire”. The only people who are defending this Evil Empire today are those who personally benefitted from the misery and death of others; some of them we now see operating in eastern Ukraine and Crimea. We can also deduce from all of this “who is who” in Russia; we also get a “good feel” about the current leadership of the Russian Federation. This especially applies to President Vladimir Putin, a former KGB officer, who has declared, during a speech to the people of Russia, that the greatest calamity of the twentieth century was the break-up of the Soviet Union. Needless to say, the events in Ukraine and Crimea demonstrate that some of the “old Soviet guard” are still siding with the old Stalinist policies and want to see the return of the Bolshevik-ways of the Evil Empire. Thanks to NATO and the European Union (EU), President Putin’s wish will never materialize! We must do everything possible for Ukraine to become part of the community of civilized nations of EU and eventually become a member of NATO. Note: The Russian Federation and the United States have guaranteed the territorial integrity of Ukraine! Putin/Russia has broken this pledge!

So, what are the Putin-Russian objectives in Ukraine? First of all, Putin has indicated that he wants to reestablish the Russian Empire – Tsarist, Soviet or Tsarist-Soviet style; it makes no difference what type, as long as it is a Russian empire. That includes the establishment of the old Tsarist-Soviet borders at the expense of all of its neighbors. Second, in order for the occupied Crimea to be a viable part of Russia, a land route must be established from “mother Russia” to Crimea; that can be achieved only by the occupation of the eastern provinces of Ukraine. Once that is done, next on the list would be the Odessa region and Moldova. Third, Russians want to grab the potentially energy-rich areas of Ukraine (coal fields and potential oil and gas fields). Will Moscow pursue this agenda? The current events in Ukraine indicate that the Russian objectives are as depicted by the chart below. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of December 5, 1994, signed by the Russian Federation, the United States of America and the United Kingdom with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan, guaranteed Ukraine’s territorial integrity and political independence (AN documents A/49/765). The Russian objectives are visually depicted below. The December 4, 2009 “Budapest Memorandum confirmed that the guarantor nations, that later also included China and France, reaffirm the above treaty with Ukraine and that they will refrain from using force that threatens the territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine, except for self-defense or as noted by the Charter of the United Nations. So, what are the Russian objectives? See the map below.
Map: (1) Russian Federation (RF) has concentrated troops along the eastern border of Ukraine under the guise of “military exercises; also in Crimea. (2) RF operatives staged takeover of Crimea and Putin declared that RF will defend its Russian minority in Ukraine; (3) RF operatives have now staged disorders in eastern Ukraine. If this is successful, RF forces will move in again, disguised as “local defense forces”; indications are that this is already taking place. (4 & 5) RF operatives will recreate the same conditions successively in areas 4 and 5 until Crimea is linked via land with “mother Russia”; (6) & (7) Finally, after Russia has achieved its “invasion” objectives 3, 4, and 5 and linked its forces with those in Crimea, it will create widespread disturbance in Odessa and try to occupy adjacent territory bordering Romania; thereafter, Moldova is next on their “occupation list”. Is this far-fetched? Let’s watch it! (8) Just southeast of Sochi, not that long ago, Russia launched an invasion against Georgia, whereby Georgia lost substantial territory.

Note: The author of this article has used the materials, information and photos, from the brochure “Genocide Against the Ukrainian Nation”, supplied by the Latvian-Ukrainian Congress and printed by SIA “Veiters korporacija” in Riga, 2013.