Is a military conflict between NATO and Russia inevitable?

Dr Alexander Kouzminov

1. Prerequisites for a military conflict with Russia

The world history shows, that wars begin when the ruling class (the 'ruling elite') sees a threat to its power and financial capital.

It is getting harder for the collective West[1] to maintain its dominance in the world, and now it is trying to return that dominance. Other powerful centres of power are emerging in the world, one of which is once again Russia, - the one, that West has always viewed as a dangerous alternative, as the only country that the West has failed to subjugate over all the past centuries.

Economic, financial and political ventures in Europe are ending in a serious crisis. European political elites do not know how to plan the economy, which would be for the entire nation, and not for a handful of elites. They do not know how to peacefully emerge from the current crisis in their countries. The West cannot allow its geopolitical decline. Therefore, it does not rule out extreme measures. The West can again try to stop the growing economic gap - and solve its problems at the expense of other countries, and only by military force.

For 500 years, the West has been the key and influential centre of power and political initiative - the main centre and unification of world history. Global conflicts took place in the West, political ideas arose in Western countries. Today, the centre of world economic gravity and political initiative is shifting to the East. This is inevitable. This phenomenon will become the defining process for the entire 21st century and, most likely, beyond.

The West is very well aware of the inevitability of this process. Its ongoing pressure on the rest of the world, not on the West, but first of all on Russia and China, is an attempt to slow down the process of the power shift to the East.

Military force is still a very important factor in the international security system. The United States, which points out to everyone that the world stable and safe, remains the world's leading militarist. The United States has the largest military budget and constantly unleashes military operations abroad. It is the most militarily active power on the planet, whose actions have resulted in the escalation of conflict and disorganization of order in the regions, in which it intervenes.

The 'Trump doctrine' has emerged: if an agreement cannot be reached, then force is used. Today, this has become acceptable in the West, and they want to try to use force against Russia. At the NATO session in The Hague, June 24-25, 2025, they agreed: if necessary, we will strike Russia first. But it is naive and pointless to apply the 'peace through force' strategy to Russia, since this is the path to world war.

The unipolar system of international relations served the interests of the 'golden billion', but now the model of 'liberal globalization' is becoming outdated. The West is becoming another

[1] The term 'Collective West' generally refers to a group of nations, primarily in Europe and North America, that share similar political, economic, and cultural values and are perceived to be aligned in their response to international issues, particularly those involving Russia or other geopolitical rivals. It's often used in a negative context to imply unity and coordinated action against Russia.

region in the world on an important and significant level, but it is not a global leader or hegemon. An analysis of this process is given in my article.[2]

The United States views multipolarity as an unstable situation, with many unpredictable risks and threats. From the Russian point of view, this understanding is wrong. Russia considers multipolarity as a natural structure of international relations, as it realizes that no single power is capable of managing a complex international community today. Russia understands that only a consensus of major powers (to maintain order in their regions) - can keep the world from a major war and catastrophe.

"*The historical period of the West's undivided dominance in world affairs is ending, the unipolar world is becoming a thing of the past... The West is not capable of single-handedly governing humanity, but is desperately trying to do so, and the majority of the world's peoples no longer want to put up with this... The USA-style liberal world order not only increases chaos every day - it is becoming increasingly intolerant even towards the Western countries themselves, towards their attempts to show any independence... For Western civilization to survive at the level it has achieved, the entire planet is needed as an environment for existence, all of humanity's resources are needed*",[3] - a statement by Russian President Vladimir Putin at the annual meetings of the Valdai International Discussion Club in 2022 and 2024.[4]

BRICS is becoming one of the main instruments of the new world and global governance. The BRICS countries account for a third of the earth's land area, almost half of the planet's population, and 40% of the world economy.[5]

The combined gross domestic product (GDP) of the BRICS countries is $77 trillion, while that of the G7 countries is $50 trillion. The US economy is a colossus with feet of clay. The US national debt is $37 trillion, and every day it increases by $4 billion! The combined capabilities of BRICS give the association the opportunity to influence politics, support the interests of the global majority, and protect the rights of many small states.

Collective West is losing its ability to maintain a pretty facade of: Western democracy, human rights, equality, justice, civil liberties, and commitment to international law, and other such incentives.

The USA power grew during the two world wars of the twentieth century, and now they would like to repeat it. Old Europe, the Russian Empire and then the Soviet Union were in ruins, and the USA became rich. But for the USA, - participation in a direct military conflict with Russia is extremely undesirable.

---

2 Kouzminov, A. The inevitability of a multipolar world. *Globalbridge*, 29 November 20024; https://globalbridge.ch/die-multipolare-welt-ist-unvermeidlich/

3 Quote from the book by Russian philosopher Alexander Zinoviev "The West. The Phenomenon of Westernism. The Great Evolutionary Turning Point", 2023.

4 Annual meetings of the International Discussion Club 'Valdai', 27 October 2022; http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/69682; and 7 November 2024; http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/75521

5 Currently, BRICS includes 10 countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, UAE, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt and Indonesia. Formal applications for joining BRICS have been submitted by 30 countries (data as of January 2025).

As history shows, the USA would like to use another military conflict to their advantage at the expense of other countries, without participating in it: so that Europe would conflict with Russia, and the USA would be above the fray, receiving dividends from the war. How to achieve this? The same way they achieved it before – during the two world wars. They entered the war at the last stage: in April 1917 (1914-1918, World War I) and June 1944 (1939-1945, World War II).

Losses in World War I:[6,7]

- Total losses: 10 million people killed.
- The USA losses: 340,000 people, per 1,000 inhabitants – 1.2 people.
- Losses of the Russian Empire: more than 2,250,000 people, per 1,000 inhabitants – 12 people.

Losses in World War II:

- Total losses: 70-85 million people killed.
- The USA losses: 417,000 people, per 1,000 inhabitants – 3.2 people.
- The USSR losses: 27 million people, per 1,000 inhabitants – 137 people.

In the Western world, there is a loss for political development leaders. European politicians are dependent and are under the dictate of the United States. There are no national leaders in Europe. We can see that in the European Union, those who come to power are irresponsible individuals, without common sense and logic, which differs when compared to their great predecessors such as: Winston Churchill, Charles de Gaulle, Willy Brandt, Jacques Chirac, Margaret Thatcher, François Mitterrand, Helmut Kohl, Gerhard Schröder and other reasonable politicians. Today's Macrons, Mertzes, Starmers and others like them - do not feel the great responsibility associated with the use of weapons of mass destruction.

They consider Russia as an empire and successor of the Soviet Union, the goal of which is the expansion and as the main threat to Europe. They are absolutely convinced, that Russia is imperialistic, aggressive and prevents everyone from living normally.

The people of Europe are prevented by its political leaders from knowing the truth about Russia's initiatives and its policy – that is, to stabilize and strengthen international security. The leaders of European countries either lie or keep silent about the role of the collective West in destabilizing the world order, about the causes of the conflict in Ukraine and in other regions of the world.

There are almost no independent mass-media outlets left in Europe and the United States. Those that remain are engaged in propaganda and the development of an agenda, that is beneficial to the ruling political elite. Historical memory is being eradicated: the role of the Soviet Union in the victory over Nazi Germany is being distorted, monuments to Soviet soldiers are being destroyed, the memory of the economic and other assistance of the Soviet Union to post-war Eastern Europe is being erased, and so on.

Out of fear, the West is trying to stop the growth and influence of Russian media, which has become a significant player in the international arena. The collective West wants to maintain control over global information. Its goal is not to provide truthful information, but to impose its

---

6 Killed and died from wounds of military personnel, deceased civilians.
7 Wikipedia data.

own version of reality on the world, - reality, that is beneficial to the West, not allowing alternative views, especially from the Eastern political bloc.

Western politicians regularly frighten their populations with an image of Russian threat, in order to divert attention from their own internal problems. The collective West has proven itself to be a fundamental enemy of Russia and its people (since the times of the Russian Empire), and there should be no illusions about this. For Russia, confrontation with the West is a question of Russia's survival.

For the collective West, Russia is a high wall, which the West can't seem to climb over, for the last thousands of years. If it were not for Russia, then, indeed, the entire planet would be completely under their control, like a colony.

Russia wants to stop European political elites from hiding their mistakes and their desire to hide this. These mistakes and the desire to conceal them - is what is pushing the world towards a third world war. These elites, who are driven by power and control, have already produced catastrophic consequences in the 20th Century - twice! – and now, for the third time they are again threatening peace and stability. This is the main reason why Russia is fighting, - to prevent a repetition of past tragedies, and to protect the future of our world.

Aggressive rhetoric from top European politicians and military command

One of the first instigators of the war with Russia was German Federal Defense Minister Boris Pistorius, who said in an October 2023 interview with ZDF channel 'Berlin Direkt': "*We must get used to the idea of the threat of war in Europe. We must be prepared to defend ourselves and prepare the German armed forces and society for this*".[8]

He was supported by the British Army Chief General Sir Patrick Sanders, who told 1,000 top military leaders, government officials and arms suppliers from around the world at the International Armoured Vehicles Conference in London on 24 January 2024, that the British government: "*must prepare now to mobilise the nation*" for war, because "*the coming war with Russia will be aimed at destroying our system and way of life*".[9] A year later, in an interview with The Telegraph, he set a date for the war – within five years, when Britain's war with Russia would begin.[10]

"*France is Russia's 'main enemy' in Europe*," - the head of the French army, General Thierry Burkhard, 11 July 2025. According to the general, Russia has unleashed a war in Europe, that threatens the entire Western world system.[11] The French President is of the same opinion: "*the Russian threat on Europe's borders - from the Caucasus to the Arctic - is prepared, organized, and*

---

8 Boris Pistorius. Verteidigungsminister über Kriegsgefahr – "Wir müssen wehrhaft werden", *ZDF 'Berlin Direkt'*, 30 October 2023 (Published on 2 November 2023).

9 Dan Sabbagh and Peter Walker. Army chief says people of UK are 'prewar generation' who must be ready to fight Russia. *The Guardian*, 24 January 2024; https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/jan/24/army-chief-says-people-of-uk-are-prewar-generation-who-must-be-ready-to-fight-russia

10 Danielle Sheridan. Britain 'must prepare for war with Russia in next five years'. *The Telegraph*, 11 July 2025; https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/07/11/britain-must-prepare-for-war-with-russia-next-five-years/

11 Elise Vincent. French army chief says Russia 'will pose a real threat before 2030'. *Le Monde*, 20 July 2025.

persistent, we must be ready to confront", - Emmanuel Macron speaking ahead of France's national Bastille Day celebrations, 13 July 2025.[12]

The EU Commissioner designate for Defense and Space Andrius Kubilius called on Europe to actively arm itself for a future confrontation with Russia: "*We must be ready to meet Russia militarily in six to eight years. It won't be possible without concrete action and political will. The EU, in complementing NATO and together with its Member States, must boost defense production, stock up reserves...*".[13]

Bjørn Gram, Minister of Defence of Norway, has urged the country to be ready for a military conflict with Russia.[14]

"*I take upon myself the responsibility of leadership – the responsibility that Europe expects from us*," - German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's speech in the Bundestag in July 2025.[15] Let's compare his words with what Hitler said 85 years ago, to justify the attack on the Soviet Union: "*The Kremlin aimed at domination and annihilating all of Europe*." [In such circumstances], "*Germany is fighting today, not for itself, but for the entire Continent*," - Adolf Hitler, December 1941.[16] There is no difference…

The President of France, the Chancellor of Germany, the Prime Minister of Poland, the Prime Minister of Estonia, the head of the European Commission and dozens of other European politicians - are calling on Europeans to prepare for the worst.

Conclusions:

- The collective West is trying to returns its world dominance, and sees Russia as a threat to this.
- European political elites are the main driving force pushing NATO expansion to Russia's borders.

2. NATO's preparations for a war with Russia

"*In the last 500 years, all the tragedies of the world were born in Europe or thanks to European policies: colonization, wars (119 wars between the Great Powers), the Crusaders [religious wars of the 16th-17th centuries, the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), the Seven Years' War (1756-1763)], the Napoleonic Wars (1804-1814, 1815), the Crimean War (1853-1856), the First World War (1914-1918), the Second World War (1939-1945)*", - Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, March 2, 2025.

---

[12] France's Macron calls for major hike in defence spending, citing Russia threat. *RFI*, 14 July 2025.

[13] If you want peace, EPP Group in the European Parliament, 2 October 2024; https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom/if-you-want-peace-prepare-for-war

[14] Arpan Rai. Norway must brace for conflict with Russia amid Sweden and Finland's Nato bids, warns defence minister. *Independent*, 6 February 2024; https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/russia-ukraine-war-norway-defence-minister-b2491211.html

[15] Sabine Kinkartz German Bundestag: Attacks and insults dominate debate. *Deutsche Welle*, 9 July 2025; https://www.dw.com/en/german-bundestag-attacks-and-insults-dominate-debate/a-73218932

[16] Adolf Hitler: Speech Declaring War Against The United States (December 11, 1941). *Jewish Virtual Library*; https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/hitler-s-speech-declaring-war-against-the-united-states

Europe is the aggressor and the perpetrator of serial genocides over the last twenty to thirty years. Let us look at a few examples. The NATO invasion of Yugoslavia in 1999 without a UN Security Council mandate, which violates international law.[17]

The invasion and war in Afghanistan 2001-2021.[18] The invasion and war in Iraq 2003-2011. The aggression against Libya in 2011.[19] Today, these countries are still in ruins and their inhabitants continue to die.

The world is on the verge of a continental and global catastrophe. In the 20th century, humanity was on the brink of a major nuclear conflict several times, but each time common sense prevailed. Unfortunately, this practice and experience are fading away as a useful tool in the strategic thinking of many Western countries.

A new round of tension on the continent could lead to the repeat of tragedy of the 1914, when after one shot in Sarajevo, Europe and the entire world were plunged into a 'hot' (1914-1918, 1939-1945) and 'cold' (1945-1980s) World Wars, that lasted for almost seven decades.

NATO is one step away from a military conflict with Russia

The collective West, together with aggressor countries of Europe (primarily England, France, Germany and the Baltic states) – strongly think that the conflict in Ukraine will continue for a long time, so as to jointly attack Russia. The USA military-industrial complex wants the same, and it is evident that it's profitable for the USA to push Ukrainian conflict onto its European allies. The USA is counting on drawing the world into a new dependence on its economy, forcing others to act according to its rules, and adapt to geopolitical ambitions of the White House.

The conflict in Ukraine is one of utmost importance for both West and Russia. It is a global conflict, significantly exceeding in consequences, significance, and complexity to that of other military conflicts of the past.

"*Russia views the presence of a military contingent of any country in Ukraine as a threat to its security. Russia will consider the forces of the "coalition of the willing" in Ukraine a military target. This could lead to a direct clash with NATO*", - Russian Foreign Ministry statement, July 17, 2025.[20]

Russia's main demands on Ukraine are: complete demilitarization; denazification and a change of the neo-Nazi regime that was established in Ukraine with the help of Western sponsors (primarily Great Britain, Germany and France).

After the counteroffensive in eastern Ukraine (the 'Kharkiv operation') in September 2022, the attack on the Kursk region in August 2024, which were planned by NATO, - the military and political leadership of European countries came to the conclusion, that it was possible to win war

---

[17] Coalition forces under USA command: France, Germany, Great Britain, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden and others.

[18] At the initial stage of the invasion and war: USA, Great Britain, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Estonia and others.

[19] The USA-led coalition forces included Britain, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Poland and other European countries that supported the invasion.

[20] Russia will consider the forces of the "coalition of the willing" in Ukraine a military target. *News*, 17 July 2025; https://news.mail.ru/politics/67051219/

against Russia, on a small territory. They believed that a limited seizure of Russian territory would not lead to a retaliatory nuclear strike from Moscow.

In Europe, there is accelerated preparation for a large-scale war with Russia using all types of weapons. NATO is conducting military exercises, deploying weapons near Russia's western

The political and military elite of Europe openly call Russia their enemy, call for preparations for a military conflict with Russia and name its timeframe – within 3-5 years. The location for the conflict, they apparently mean the Baltic-Scandinavian region: Germany, the Baltics, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark. This is evidenced by the mobilization of resources of the European Union. This is also confirmed by the nature of the recent large-scale exercises in the Baltic region.

Signs of preparation

NATO has added 14 new members since German reunification on October 3, 1990. The European NATO member countries are becoming an increasingly aggressive alliance. They are actively re-arming and bringing their military-industrial complex to readiness for combat. Europe is repurposing civilian factories for military production; military-industrial complex corporations are overloaded with orders for weapons, defensive structures are being built, borders are being mined, new sites for missile launchers are being built and old ones are being improved.

The overall military-economic potential of Western European countries that are members of NATO is increasing and is 4:1 - compared to Russia. For comparison: the USA military budget ($1 trillion in 2026) is 9 times larger! than Russia's ($126 billion in 2025). The NATO is 4 million military personnel, 7,000 combat aircraft, 750 warships, 300 satellites and the Starlink constellation.

NATO military spending increased by 31% in 2021-2024. At the NATO summit in The Hague on June 24-25, European countries agreed to a new demand from the ‘main partner’ (the USA) to increase their military spending by 2.5 times (up to 5%) by 2035. Currently (as of 2025), the amount of military spending by European NATO members is $456 billion. Taking into account the increase in spending to 5%, the total amount will be $1 trillion and will be comparable to the USA military budget. The final declaration of the summit includes tough language, defining Russia as a ‘long-term threat’ to Euro-Atlantic security. All these costs will fall on the shoulders of ordinary taxpayers in any case, so NATO countries will continue to demonize Russia in order to justify the need to spend so much money.

A military encirclement is being created around Russia. The Russian Defence Ministry notes a significant increase in NATO activity near Russia's Western borders. The number of large-scale military exercises by NATO countries near Russia's borders from the Baltic to the Black Sea has reached 40 events per year. Numerous military contingents have been and continue to be stationed near Russia's borders on a permanent basis.

The aim of these actions to is to provoke Russia, accuse Moscow of aggression and start a direct military confrontation. This could happen in 2027-2030, when European troops are ready for operational actions. Europe needs a big war to dismember Russia into small separate states and gain free access to its raw materials, and make the world unipolar again - under the hegemony of the collective West.

Sweden and *Finland*. Abandoned their policy of military neutrality and joined NATO (in March-April 2023), as a result of which the length of the border between Russia and NATO doubled and now amounts to 2,600 km.[21]

Sweden. Conducts mobilization activities, purchases new weapons.

Finland. Constantly conducts military exercises, and has increased the number of reservists up to 900,000 people.

Poland. Builds the 'Eastern Shield' - strengthens the Suwałki Corridor (also known as the Suwałki Gap),[22] increases military-industrial complex expenditures to 4.7%.

Norway. Concerned that Russia allegedly aimed to seize Spitsbergen, which Norway considers its own, despite the fact that it is an archipelago and the coastal waters are a demilitarized zone.[23]

France. Will double its defence budget by 2027, to $74 billion.

United Kingdom. In July 2025, the USA military moved nuclear weapons onto UK soil for the first time since 2008. The B61-12 nuclear bombs are based at RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk. This comes following an announcement that Britain is purchasing 12 F-35A fighter jets, which will be available to fly any NATO 'nuclear mission', with the Ministry of Defence confirming that the RAF will have a nuclear role for the first time in decades.[24]

Germany: The ruling political elite is creating the preconditions for an escalation of the situation and provoking a military clash with Russia. The Germany's chancellor Friedrich Merz in his first major speech to parliament on May 6, 2025, called for Berlin to transform its Bundeswehr into the "*strongest conventional army in Europe*".[25]

Chancellor Merz deploys a 5,000-strong tank brigade in Lithuania and creates 7 new ones, orders 1,000 new 'Leopard' tanks. Increases defence budget from $60 billion in 2024 to $70 billion in 2025. Germany's total military spending in 2025 is $112 billion. Plans to spend $150 billion a year on military purposes by 2029, reintroduce conscription (abolished in 2011), and increase the Bundeswehr to 10,000 people every year.

In 2026, Germany will permanently receive American long-range missile systems 'Typhon' with a range of up to 1,800 km, and 'Dark Eagle' with a range of over 2,800 km,[26] previously

---

[21] Previously, the total length of Russia's land borders with NATO member countries Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Norway were about 1,300 km.

[22] The strategically important area (about 100 km long) around the border between Lithuania and Poland, and centres on the shortest path between Belarus and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad Oblast on the Polish side of the border. Through the Corridor the Baltic States are connected by transport and energy to the rest of the European Union.

[23] In addition to Norway, only Russia carries out economic activity on the archipelago, according to the special status of the archipelago (signed on 9 February 1920 in Paris and determined the international legal status of the Svalbard archipelago).

[24] Ellie Cook. US Nuclear Weapons 'Deployed' to UK for First Time in 17 Years. *Newsweek*, 22 July 2025; https://www.newsweek.com/us-nuclear-weapons-uk-raf-lakenheath-2102419

[25] Nette Nöstlinger. Germany's Merz vows to build Europe's strongest army. *Politico*, 14 May 2025; https://www.politico.eu/article/friedrich-merz-germany-bundestag-europe-conventional-army/

[26] In a straight line, the distance between Berlin and Moscow is 1,600 km.

prohibited by the *Russian-American Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1987* (INF Treaty).[27]

The Chancellor Merz's plan to militarize Germany, including arming it with nuclear weapons from France and Britain, opens Pandora's box.

European Union. The EU Commissioner for Defence and Space - Andrius Kubilius called on Europe to actively arm itself for a future confrontation with Russia, stating that "*it is time to prepare for the USA withdrawal from Europe and for a war with Russia, and it is time to build a 'Pax Europea'*" independent of the USA and to replace the existing 'Pax Americana', since Pax Europea is Europe's strategic responsibility, not that of the USA.[28]

He proposed to include Ukraine in this new European defence architecture - in order to "*prepare for a permanent Russian threat*" and a war with Russia (7 July 2025). Kubilius was supported by President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen: "*We must immediately begin preparing to replace American defence resources on the European continent*" (Aachen, 22 April 2025).

The '*Coalition of the Willing*',[29] which unites more than 30 countries, mainly European, allows for its participation in a possible 'peacekeeping' mission in Ukraine for at least 5 years. France and Great Britain play a coordinating role in the coalition. The creation of the coalition was announced in early March 2025 by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, in order to "*protect the deal in Ukraine and guarantee peace*".[30]

Russia has sharply criticized the idea of sending troops to Ukraine: "*the appearance [in Ukraine] of troops from NATO countries under a foreign flag – the EU or a national one – is unacceptable. ... The goal of this operation is to fuel an armed conflict in Ukraine*".[31]

The USA has not changed its position on Ukraine, but will try to shift the economic burden of continuing the war onto its European allies. The USA will deliver 17 advanced long-range 'Patriot PAC-3' air defence missile systems to European NATO member states - in exchange for the transfer to Ukraine of 17 obsolete PAC-2 systems from Switzerland.[32]

Note: A single 'Patriot' battery typically includes 4-8 launchers, and each launcher can hold up to 4 missiles. In Europe, 34 'Patriots' batteries are currently on combat duty, including 13 PAC-2 systems in Germany, 9 in Greece, and 4 in Spain. The cost of one 'Patriot PAC-3' system in the USA is $1.1 billion, while the sale price for Europe is $2-3 billion. The USA production capacity is 12 'Patriot' batteries and 550 missiles for them per year. By 2027, the USA plans to produce 650 missiles per year for 'Patriot' systems.

---

27 On August 2, 2019, the United States officially withdrew from the Treaty.

28 Speech by Commissioner Kubilius at the Tocqueville Conversations: "The Future of Europe: From Pax Americana to Pax Europeae". *European Commission*, 28 June 2025.

29 'Coalitions of the willing' are created bypassing international structures (primarily the UN) during periods of crisis in order to speed up the adoption of a decision without the participation of the UN Security Council.

30 PM remarks following the Coalition of the Willing meeting in Paris: 27 March 2025. Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street. Published 27 March 2025; https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/pm-remarks-following-the-coalition-of-the-willing-meeting-in-paris-27-march-2025

31 Lavrov called the appearance of NATO troops in Ukraine unacceptable. *RIA Novosti*, 18 February 2025; https://ria.ru/20250218/lavrov-2000106692.html (In Russian. Accessed 20 February 2025).

32 In 2020, the Pentagon's major USA defense contractor Raytheon sold 17 Patriot launchers to Switzerland.

The deployment of these systems in Europe will change the strategic situation in Europe. Moscow has repeatedly warned that if the United States deploys its ground-based medium-range systems anywhere near the borders of the Russian Federation, Russia will also not adhere to its voluntary unilateral moratorium on the deployment of such systems. If it is not possible to reach an agreement with the United States and its European allies on the moratorium, Russia is ready to deploy the latest Russian medium-range missiles 'Oreshnik' on the territory of Belarus.[33]

Note: The 'Oreshnik' is a hypersonic projectile that can fly at 10 times the speed of sound - or around 12,300 km/h (8,370 mph; 3.40 km/s) - up to a range of roughly 5,500 km, or 3,400 miles, according to Russian military sources. "*Flight time to potential targets in Europe from the Kapustin Yar test site in the Astrakhan region: to Berlin - 12 minutes, Rome - 13, Brussels - 14, Paris - 15, London - 16 minutes*".[34]

NATO countries are deeply mistaken that the Russian leadership will not have enough political will to strike with tactical nuclear weapons. Such signals have already been given to the West. The West did not read them.

An example of such signal was given - when the 'Oreshnik' ballistic missile hit a military facility in the city of Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, on November 21, 2024. The strike was carried out in response to Ukraine's allies' permission to use ATACMS and 'Storm Shadow' missiles against military facilities in Russia. There are currently no countermeasures to the 'Oreshnik' system in the world. The 'Oreshnik', which is capable of unleashing several separate nuclear warheads has already been put into serial production by Russian factories.

Russia's official position, is that it considers the production and supply of weapons by countries onto the territory of another (for example, Ukraine) – for the means of destroying targets on the territory of the Russian Federation, as legitimate military targets for Russian weapons. Previously, such a response was considered an option. Now, this is the official position of Russia.

European aggressors need to think about this seriously. A country strike can, and most likely will be carried out by conventional forces, including the use of tactical nuclear weapons, such as hypersonic missiles 'Oreshnik'.

Military conclusions for Russia, which are being discussed in Russian military-political circles:

The political leadership of Russia must not miss the moment when aggressive Europe actually attacks Russia (to prevent a repetition of the events on June 22, 1941).

- As soon as Europe starts supplying Ukraine with missiles and other weapons that reach Russian territory:
  - the first warning to the aggressor is to destroy the production of these weapons on the territory of Europe (for example, military factories);
  - the second warning is to demonstratively destroy individual NATO combat units (for example, a ship/ships in the Baltic Sea);

[33] The first 'Oreshnik' installations are expected to be deployed in Belarus at the end of 2025 or in 2026.

[34] David Averre. Putin's new missile leaves the whole of Europe minutes from Armageddon: Hypersonic weapon used in Ukraine 'could hit London in 20 minutes' and strike anywhere in Europe with multiple nuclear warheads. *Daily Mail*, 23 November 2024.

- the third warning is to conduct a 'test' nuclear explosion (or a series of nuclear weapons tests) at one of Russia's northern test sites and/or at Ukraine's western border with Europe (e.g., at the Yavoriv military test site in Ukraine, located 30 km northwest of Lviv). This is done in order to bring aggressive European politicians to their senses - to let them understand that Russia can strike anywhere with nuclear weapons on the European territory.

If these measures do not convince, use conventional weapons and/or tactical nuclear weapons against the territory of the aggressor country (this is permitted by the Doctrine of Nuclear Deterrence).

The Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine (which came into force on November 19, 2024).

Conditions for the possible use of nuclear weapons by Russia (paragraph 18 of the Doctrine):

- aggression with the use of conventional weapons against Russia and (or) Belarus;
- receipt of reliable information about a massive launch of air and space attack weapons and their crossing of the state border of Russia and (or) Belarus;
- aggression by a non-nuclear state with the support of a nuclear power;
- aggressive actions by any NATO member state against Russia and (or) Belarus will be interpreted as aggression by the entire alliance.[35]

Conclusions:

- NATO is deeply mistaken that the Russian leadership lacks the political will to launch a retaliatory or pre-emptive strike, including tactical nuclear weapons, against NATO aggression.
- Such warning signs have already been given to the West. The West did not read them.

3. Scenarios of possible provocations by the West

There are three plans, that have been drawn up in Europe – three scenarios for a 'big war' with Russia.

Scenario 1 - Capture of the Kaliningrad region

The most likely military conflict is in the Kaliningrad region.

Signs of this: the supply of weapons to the Swedish island of Gotland, such as air defense systems, anti-ship systems (artillery, missiles) and other military equipment. Estonia and Finland would create a joint military group, and under far-fetched pretexts they block the air and sea part of Kaliningrad. The total combat potential of NATO in this region (almost 2,000 km along the future front line) is 5-10 times greater than Russia's in personnel and combat equipment.

The North Atlantic Alliance has prepared a plan for a rapid destruction of the Kaliningrad region, as part of the plan to counter Russian threats "*...the Army, along with NATO, now have the capability to take [the Russian' Kaliningrad region] down from the ground in a timeframe that is*

[35] Fundamentals of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence. Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 19.11.2024 No. 991.

unheard of and faster than we've ever been able to do", - General Christopher Donahue, the commander of Allied Land Command, 17 July 2025.[36]

A similar position is shared by Ben Hodges, former commander of the United States Army in Europe, who stated that "*The Russians need to know that we are prepared to do something like destroy Kaliningrad. That's part of deterrence*".[37]

If Russia's protests and ultimatums are ignored, Russian troops will have to break through to Kaliningrad via the Suwałki Corridor. In that case, Europe will launch a ground military operation in the Kaliningrad region using a large number of missiles, artillery weapons and drones. The occupation of the Kaliningrad region will finally close the Baltics to Russia.

Such actions by NATO will most likely result in the complete destruction of the Baltic states – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. An attack on the Kaliningrad region will mean an attack on the Russian Federation, with all the countermeasures envisaged by the Nuclear Deterrence Doctrine of the Russian Federation, including the use of nuclear weapons.

The conflict will lead to a direct clash between Russia and NATO and, possibly World War III.

Scenario 2 – Attack from the North

NATO considers the Russian North as a zone of future military operations. The conflict between Russia and NATO could begin with an attack from different flanks in the North, similar to the intervention of 1918-1920.[38] European political leaders, together with Washington, would draw the Baltic countries and Poland into this conflict.

Military action in the Arctic is unlikely, since it affects, among other things, the economic interests of China, which neither Europe nor the United States will want to get involved with in the foreseeable future. However, a military conflict with Russia from Finland (a NATO member since April 2023) is likely.

If the conflict in Kaliningrad can be resolved, then an attack from Finland on St. Petersburg, Karelia and the Murmansk region threatens World War III.

Scenario 3 – Southern Flank: Moldova

According to the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR), NATO is accelerating the transformation of Moldova into a military base against Russia.[39]

The signs of this will be, that the 'Marculesti' and 'Beltsy' airfields are being modernized, logistic centres (hubs) and large warehouses for receiving military equipment are being built, and the railway gauge is being changed to the European standard.

---

[36] On July 17, 2025, General Christopher Donahue presented a new 'Eastern Flank Deterrence Line' plan at the Association of the U.S. Army's inaugural LandEuro conference in Wiesbaden, Germany.

[37] Ben Hodges - Europe must Prepare for War or Risk Russian Provocation and Domination of the Continent. *YouTube*; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6ztuutAg7E (Accessed 30 July 2025).

[38] Foreign intervention in northern Russia in 1918-1920. The Entente allies, including Great Britain, France, the United States and other countries, landed their troops in Arkhangelsk and Murmansk, supporting the White movement in the Russian Civil War.

[39] NATO is turning Moldova into a new military battering ram against Russia. Press Bureau of the Foreign Intelligence Service of Russia, 14 July 2025; http://www.svr.gov.ru/smi/2025/07/nato-prevrashchaet-moldaviyu-v-novyy-voennyy-taran-protiv-rossii.htm (In Russian. Accessed 30 July 2025).

Moldova is not a NATO member, so military confrontation in this region could begin in Transnistria and Gagauzia, and would lead to a military conflict similar to the Ukrainian.

Scenario 4 – No 'Big war'

European political elites are actually afraid of a direct conflict with Russia, a nuclear power. They are aiming for a not a large-scale military conflict, not a big war, but an economic one, since they expect to strangle Russia with sanctions, completely isolating it from the world economy. However, these actions could lead to an uncontrolled escalation. But attacking Russia without Washington's support is suicide for Europe. Russia's response could be so destructive that it would be simply impossible for the West to talk about victory.

Therefore, all the loud statements by European politicians are an attempt to intimidate their own population and an attempt to explain why the euros of EU citizens are floating away to the USA, to the delight of the American military-industrial complex. They are using 'militaristic frenzy' to solve their own internal problems.

For Europe, a major war is economically impossible, so under the pretext of preparing for it, the European Union simply knocks out money for its own needs. Nevertheless, as Freddie Mercury sang, "the show must go on" for the European taxpayer. Therefore, most likely, the European Union and NATO will continue to arm themselves, but they will try to sell all these weapons through proxy-wars[40] with Russia, similar to the conflict in Ukraine.

There are practically no real options for an attack on Russia, in which the USA would decide to directly participate in a military conflict. The Russian strategy of deterring any aggressor, based on the use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, should stop any enemy. Therefore, most likely, the only exception to an attack on Russia could be a situation - when BRICS tries to replace the dollar with its own currency, and White House is on the verge of the dollar collapse, as well as the entire Bretton Woods economic system.

Note. The *Bretton Woods system* – is an adjustable peg system, with every country fixing their currencies to an anchor currency (the US dollar) and the value of the anchor currency is fixed to gold. The system was established as a result of the Bretton Woods Conference, held from July 1 to 22, 1944, in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, the USA.

However, the Great War may start by accident, like the First World War after a shot in Sarajevo. The reason for this will be strategic stupidity, bordering on idiocy, and the extremely low level of responsibility of European political leaders.

Conclusions:

- NATO member-countries have come close to a military conflict with Russia.
- The world is on the threshold of a continental and, possibly, global catastrophe.

4. How to get out of the current crisis peacefully?

[40] Hybrid warfare is a type of hostile action in which the attacking side does not resort to classical military invasion.

Russia's peace initiatives

In Europe, they are increasingly talking about an inevitable war with Russia in the coming years. The main topic was not calls to find a political solution, but plans to quickly increase their military capabilities for a direct military conflict with Russia.

Moscow views NATO expansion to its borders as "*another aggravation of the international situation, an encroachment on the security and interests of the Russian Federation. Russia will be forced to take military-technical and other countermeasures in order to mitigate threats to our national security*", - the Russian Foreign Ministry, April 2023.[41]

"*The 'Doomsday clock' is moving closer to midnight. Russia is trying to prevent a catastrophe. Discussions about the possibility of World War III have become 'everyday'. The situation is especially sad when revanchist forces and militant sentiments are once again emerging in full force in Europe*," - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, June 25, 2025.

The USA and Western Europe experienced triumph when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. Now they regret that they did not destroy Russia during the difficult years of 1991-1999 and did not break it into pieces.

Respect for the Soviet Union was based on the recognition of its strength, and above all: military-technical, economic and political (international influence). The opponent was forced to recognize the strength of the USSR in these areas. This was recognized by the presidents of the United States - a powerful superpower, like the Soviet Union, at that time.[42] The United States actively interacted with the Soviet Union, striving to defuse tensions in relations between the two superpowers.

They called for respect for the Russian people for their many achievements: in science, in space, in economic and industrial development, in culture, for their courageous exploits and sacrifices in the Second World War: where 27 million were dead, a third of the country's territory, including two-thirds of the industrial base.

In our time, it is vital for Russia to achieve the same position, which would again force the collective West to recognize it. The West is now acting as a single military-political bloc against Russia. And Russia does not have an alliance like the Warsaw Pact. In the confrontation between Russia and the collective West, Russia needs allies. The BRICS bloc has greatly frightened the West, but, on the other hand, it is still economically weak. BRICS acts both in the interests of Russia and in the interests of the other participating countries.

But if BRICS cannot develop a clear joint political strategy, programme and a global goal of cooperation, and not in national interests, - then it will not be able to achieve joint economic success and become a responsible global player (participant, leader), and the collective West would be able to destroy it.

---

[41] The Russian Foreign Ministry pointed out the deterioration of Finland's relations with the Russian Federation after its inclusion in NATO. *Izvestia*, April 4, 2023; https://iz.ru/1493300/2023-04-04/mid-rf-ukazal-na-ukhudshenie-otnoshenii-finliandii-s-rf-posle-ee-vkliucheniia-v-nato (In Russian. Accessed July 30, 2025).

[42] See, e.g., President John F. Kennedy. Commencement Address at American University, Washington, D.C., June 10, 1963. President Richard Nixon made similar admissions in 1972-1974.

Russia does not trust the European political elites, because they have misled and deceived Russia for too long.

European political elites were the main driving force in pushing NATO expansion to Russia's borders. Russia had been telling the collective West for almost thirty years (since 1998, when Russia and Europe were still friends) that if NATO expanded to the borders of Ukraine and Russia, then, contrary to all NATO's promises of peace, there would be war. Ukraine was militarized, de facto absorbed into NATO, and was preparing for a war with Russia.

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel admitted that "*the Minsk Agreement 2014 was an attempt to give Ukraine time*" to build up its weapons in preparation for war with Russia.[43]

An opinion is circulating in Russian political circles, that: Russia regrets that it waited for too long and trusted its European neighbours. Perhaps Russia should have launched a special military operation earlier, than it did in 2022, as there would have been fewer casualties (human, economic, and others).

Russia has made constant attempts to establish a dialogue with Western countries in order to avoid the current situation. Back in the 1990s, the West promised not to expand NATO to the East, but at "*every step we were lied to, deceived, pretending that nothing of the sort had happened… But, unfortunately, [our demand] was not heard. We have made constant… attempts to establish relations… in order to avoid the situation we are in today and to develop… uniform rules*", - Vladimir Putin, 2022.[44] NATO member states did not take seriously President Vladimir Putin's Munich speech in 2007 at the 47th Munich Security Conference. Among the main topics of his speech (criticism of the unipolar world, the role of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE), disarmament and the Iranian nuclear program) was the question of NATO expansion to the east towards the borders of Russia. The speech of the Russian president served as a pretext for polemics in Western (primarily American) political circles - about the resumption of the Cold War.

In September 2019, Russia introduced a voluntary moratorium on the deployment of the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles systems on the Russian territory covered by the *Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty 1987* (INF Treaty) after the USA formally withdraw from the INF Treaty. President Vladimir Putin suggested adding "mutual verification measures" to his proposal for a moratorium on the deployment of missiles formerly banned by the INF Treaty. NATO rejected Putin's proposal. The United States has also dismissed the idea. Subsequent Russian proposals for reciprocal commitments, including a renunciation of the creation, testing and deployment of these systems, were rejected by Western countries. In 2023-2025, they deployed its systems, capable of delivering strikes at ranges prohibited by the INF Treaty, in NATO countries (e.g. SM-6 missiles in Germany), and on the territories of allies.

---

[43] Michael Thumann. Hassnachrich aus Moskau. *Die Zeit*, 22 December 2022; https://www.zeit.de/2022/53/angela-merkel-russland-krieg-wladimir-putin

[44] Putin: The speech at the conference in Munich was timely, but it was not heard. Strengthening NATO on Russia's borders, July 13, 2025; https://smotrim.ru/article/4594090 (In Russian. Accessed July 30, 2025).

In December 2021, Moscow presented the West with proposals for collective security, but these were rejected. Washington and Brussels refused, declaring that no one dares to limit NATO expansion, including drawing Ukraine into the alliance.

The year 2022 has become a turning point. That year all the contradictions that had been accumulating for a very long time, have been unleashed. All of Russia's attempts at dialogue and it giving warnings, that the West should not allow itself a unilateral line of dominance - have been unsuccessful. Ultimately, a conflict has been realized. The process can no longer be reversed. The world has entered a period of qualitative changes, which will irreversibly change the structure of the international system and lead to a fairer balance in international affairs.

"*We were… sincerely ready for a constructive dialogue with the West; we… insisted that both Europe and the whole world needed an indivisible system equal for all countries… But in response, we received … hypocritical reaction… [and] NATO's expansion to our borders, [and] deployment of military contingents…*", - Vladimir Putin, 21 February 2023.[45]

Russia wants to break the will of the European political elites, who for the third time in a century, because of their failures and their desire in turn to hide them, which is pushing the world towards a third world war. Russia wants to defeat these European elites, not the European peoples. These elites, driven by the desire for power and control, have already led to catastrophic consequences twice in the 20th century, and now for the third time they are again threatening peace and stability. This is the main reason why Russia is fighting - to prevent a repetition of the tragedy of the past, and to protect the future of our world.

"*Russia has no other path except the path of independence and sovereignty… We cannot live any other way, Russia will either be independent and sovereign, or it will not exist at all*", – Vladimir Putin, July 2025.[46]

Helsinki-2

In 1975, the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was held in Helsinki, Finland. The heads of 35 countries of Europe and North America signed the Helsinki Final Act, which became a symbol of the new world on the continent. The results of World War II were finally consolidated. Human rights and freedoms, national sovereignty and territorial inviolability became a new system of values in international relations not only for Europe, but for the entire world community. The key was and remains the human right to life – free and safe. Europe will have to return to the idea of discussing Helsinki-2 to develop a new development program that points the way to a peaceful Europe.

"*If European countries abandon the Helsinki Accords and start violating them, … war will come to Europe again*", - Andrei Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union from 1939 to 1988.[47]

---

[45] Presidential Address to Federal Assembly, 21 February 2023; http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/70565

[46] Statement by the President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. *Interfax*, 13 July 2025; https://www.interfax.ru/russia/1035979

[47] Half a Century of the Helsinki Act: Expectations, Reality, Prospects. *Rossiyskaya Gazeta*, 1 August 2025; https://rg.ru/2025/08/01/polveka-helsinskomu-aktu.html (In Russian. Accessed 1 August 2025).

New leadership is possible only as a product of collective efforts, based on the ideals of humanism, universal values, and development security. The European continent, which experienced the bloody 20th century as a century of wars and upheavals, needs new continental thinking.

Europe needs a non-aligned, universal mechanism to ensure peaceful development and guaranteed human security regardless of the country and region. Europe needs a new system of collective security on the continent that would be based on goodwill, dialogue and interaction "from Vancouver to Vladivostok and Beijing", without exceptions and restrictions.

Europe needs a mechanism for effective dialogue and prompt decision-making in controversial and conflict situations. The European continent needs a reformed (updated) Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and Asia; a full-fledged Treaty and Charter, with a mission of peace in every corner of the continent, with real mechanisms for involvement in resolving emerging interstate security problems.

Helsinki-2, as a new collective system of security and co-operation on the European continent, would be a worthy and timely response.

Conclusions:

1. Russia has made constant attempts to establish a dialogue with Western countries in order to avoid the current situation.
2. A new European order and architecture of collective security in Europe is impossible without Russia's participation.

Key steps for avoiding a military escalation in Greater Europe:

1. There is a need for a frank dialogue between European countries and Russia - to find ways to normalize the situation on the entire Eurasian continent on the basis of the UN Charter.
2. Collective West's refusal for a direct confrontation with Russia, participation in "détente", rehabilitation of the idea of Greater Europe.
3. Strengthening the 'strategic autonomy' of the EU, initiating NATO reform and beginning to create its own European security system.
4. There is a need for a collective security in Europe (a new Helsinki 2.0) - a non-aligned, universal mechanism to ensure peaceful development and guaranteed human security regardless of country and region.

APPENDIX

About the author: Dr. Alexander Kouzminov is a former intelligence officer of the Soviet-Russian Foreign Intelligence Service. He holds a PhD in biological sciences from Lomonosov Moscow State University. Since 1994, he has lived in New Zealand, where he has established himself as a highly qualified and experienced environmental specialist. He has an extensive track record in both the New Zealand central government and the private sector as a senior advisor, senior analyst, director, and executive director. He has contributed to a number of environmental and biosecurity policy documents (in New Zealand and internationally), such as the current New Zealand Drinking Water Standards and UNESCO policy forums. In addition to his professional activities, he is also the author of "Biological Espionage: Special Operations of the Soviet and Russian Foreign Intelligence Services in West," which was published in London and New York in 2005 and has been translated into many European languages.

Über den Autor: Dr. Alexander Kouzminov ist ein ehemaliger Geheimdienstmitarbeiter des sowjetisch-russischen Auslandsgeheimdienstes. Er promovierte in Biowissenschaften an der Moskauer Staatlichen Lomonossow-Universität. Seit 1994 lebt er in Neuseeland, wo er sich als hoch qualifizierter und erfahrener Umweltspezialist etabliert hat. Er kann auf eine umfangreiche Erfolgsbilanz in der neuseeländischen Zentralregierung und im Privatsektor als leitender Berater, leitender Analyst, Direktor und Geschäftsführer zurückblicken. Er hat an einer Reihe von Strategiepapieren zu Umwelt- und Biosicherheit (in Neuseeland und international) mitgewirkt, z. B. an den aktuellen neuseeländischen Trinkwasserstandards und an UNESCO-Politikforen. Neben seiner beruflichen Tätigkeit ist er auch als Autor tätig: „Biological Espionage. „Special Operations of the Soviet and Russian Foreign Intelligence Services in West“ wurde 2005 in London und New York veröffentlicht und in viele europäische Sprachen übersetzt.