

Pope Francis wants peace, NATO not yet (part 2, supplemented 22.3.23)

Pope Francis in May 2022 called on journalists "to keep investigating and studying what is happening in the world, to keep telling it like it is." An urgent call.

Those who then looked up discovered that the reality presented to us about what was and is going on in Ukraine lacks much factual content and understanding of the Western role in the Ukraine conflict. My article, *'Pope Francis Wants Peace, NATO Not Yet'*, along with the footnotes, provides more insight into this. **That this Western role is far less pretty than we are being shown is a truth that hurts.**

Committing a coup from the outside (2014) in an independent state is a fundamental violation of International Law and a violation of the UN Charter. The leaked phone conversation between Victoria Nuland and US Ambassador Pyatt makes the US role here crystal clear. This is evidenced in part by the subsequent fulfilling of political functions in the country. Where was the outrage that such a thing is out of the question? An independent state, right? We stood by, watched, and remained silent.

Fine promises by President Bush Sr. (that the U.S. would not harm Russia's interests) and various U.S. and European ministers, that NATO would not move an inch closer to Russia, were not kept. To then want to pursue NATO expansions to Russia's border anyway, despite protests from both the U.S. and Russian sides, is an affront to say the least and contrary to (the spirit of) International Law and the UN Charter. When Cuba, in 1962, was backed by Russia with nuclear weapons, Kennedy called this an "existential threat" to the U.S. and threatened a nuclear attack. When Putin spoke of an existential threat if neighboring Ukraine joined NATO, it was ignored.

NATO used the argument that Ukraine has a 'free choice' to join NATO. However, a 'free choice' does not automatically mean that NATO *must* then accept Ukraine as a member. Russia would have been a member a long time ago. Indeed, Russia has proposed this on several occasions, but the U.S. opposed it.

Noteworthy here is that President Zelensky "had never shown much enthusiasm for bringing Ukraine into NATO and had been elected in March 2019 through a Platform that called for cooperation with Russia to resolve the ongoing conflict. In early 2021, however, he changed course and suddenly not only embraced an entry into NATO, but also took a tough stance against Moscow." See <https://youtu.be/qciVozNtCDM> 'The causes and consequences of the Ukraine war' by John J. Mearsheimer.

When President Poroshenko was put in office by the U.S. in 2014, he turned on the Russian residents of the Donbass part of his population. He declared them "non-people," denied them any kind of normal life and ordered them to be chased away. And announced that he would win the war against them. This he started, and many thousands of people (especially civilians) were killed. If this is not a violation of International Law, it is at least a violation of Human Rights and in violation of European Law. Where was our outrage and action against this dehumanization and genocide? (See footnotes 23 and 28 to the above article).

Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk separated from Ukraine in those days. According to David C. Hendrickson* this is "**not a violation of International Law, including the UN Charter.**" (See last footnote to article.) Quote: "**People in the western and central regions of Ukraine supported the new revolutionary government in Kyiv, which is now firmly entrenched behind the Western powers, while a decisive majority of people in Crimea and the Donbass favored self-determination - i.e. do not want to be ruled by Kyiv - and sought protection from Russia to do so. Did they have the right to do so? The logic of the law dictates that they had. This right had passed to them by the earlier abolition of the constitution.**" *(Senior Fellow at the Institute for Peace & Diplomacy, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at Colorado College, and President of the John Quincy Adams Society, is the author of 8 books.)

Moreover, in December, former Chancellor Merkel, in an interview in Die Zeit (7.12.22), made it worldly known that the MINSK I and II Accords were meant "**to give Ukraine time**". Time to become stronger militarily and economically and prepare for war with Russia. While formally these Accords

were meant to give the Donbass regions some degree of independence. Another lie from the Western side towards Putin. The agreed ceasefire was not kept by either side and figures from the OSCE show how attacks from the Kyiv side increased sharply in the last weeks before Russia invaded Ukraine. NATO also intimidated and provoked Russia in other ways before the invasion.

Ukraine is a victim in the U.S. proxy war against Russia for world hegemony. (See my article *Pope Francis wants Peace...*, footnote: *the Wolfowitz Doctrine and accompanying article*.) When peace comes soon, rather today than tomorrow, Ukraine will be a devastated country, with huge debts that will take more than one generation to repay. Many (agricultural) lands are already owned by foreigners. In other words - the land will be in the hands of others.

Because we still say we *must and will win*, the violence continues and escalates. Whereas a year ago we could have accepted the Peace Accord, which Israel's former Prime Minister Bennett almost reached last March, but which NATO (read the US) did not agree to.

To be clear, I stand for values such as humanness, equality, honesty, trustworthiness, justice, compassion, forgiveness, care for life on our planet, courage, harmony, freedom, and peace. These are also values that many people mention when asked. **Treat others in the way that you would want them to treat you.**

With loyalty to values like these, together with International Law, we don't have to lean on the law of the jungle ("We Must Win"), but we can do our utmost, by hearing both sides in the conflict, with consultation and wisdom, to bring the present situation, that is getting terribly out of hand and affecting so many, to a better ending. And to prevent the use of nuclear weapons. That is the only way to lasting peace.

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