

From the Desk of the Editor

Cry Ukraine: US-NATO Strategic Buffoonery

Ewa Unoke, Ph.D.

Professor and Political Science Coordinator, E-Journal Editor

Social and Behavioral Sciences Division

Kansas City Kansas Community College

Email: eunoke@kckcc.edu

The strategic use of realpolitik (power politics) is perhaps the secret behind the success and failure of the Euro-American democracy and nation-state system. Today, however, the humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine is affecting the United States and other nations worldwide. The humanitarian cost and price of gas have reached a record high following the invasion.

In the past, the world was a collection of isolated nations but today we live in an interdependent world. Today, the world is so closely linked together such that understanding the nature and behavior of nation-states is critical in our common effort to achieve global peace and security. To understand the current crisis between Russia and Ukraine, let us re-examine the foreign policy doctrine of 'national interest.' While the idealists condemn all forms of dictatorship and authoritarianism, it seems, most times, that journalists focus attention on leaders during conflict. The danger of this lopsided reporting is that the root causes of the conflict are usually swept under the carpet and forgotten. Most countries have three basic national interests - security interest, economic interest and ideological interest. Sometimes, countries cooperate. Sometimes, countries compete. And sometimes, countries conflict and go to war when their national interest is threatened.

During the Cold War, international relations recognized the USA and USSR duopoly - as the two Superpowers of the world. The world was polarized between them as they played George Kennan's strategic foreign policy game of "containment." In 1991, the USSR collapsed into disparate nation-states - Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Belorussia, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Latvia and more. Thirty years after the collapse of the USSR, Russia, a nuclear nation state, still considers itself a Superpower since it has acquired the status of a nuclear power. In 2014, under Valdemar Putin, Russia invaded and annexed the Crimea Peninsula. In 1994, Russia invaded Chechnya. In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia. And two weeks ago, Russia invaded Ukraine.

If this realpolitik scenario is new to anybody, it is not new to the African people who have not recovered from the Berlin Conference of 1884 which ratified the *Partitioning and illegal occupation of the African Continent* by Europeans. The world seems to have also forgotten what USSR and Ukraine did to Biafra.

In 1967, an unlikely alliance of Britain, the Soviet Union and Nigeria's military dictatorship resulted in the death by bombing and starvation of over 2.5 million Biafran children and their parents. My two brothers Emeka and Anayo were killed. It is no secret that the Ukrainian Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev was the USSR leader who approved the MIG fighter jets which bombed Biafran children and women in hospitals, schools and homes. Despite the Cold War between them, Harold Wilson of the UK Labor Party and Leonid Brezhnev teamed up to stop the emergence of the Republic of Biafra because it could inspire other African nations to seek their own self-determination.

As a Biafran child soldier, I watched Soviet pilots bomb our rural and urban markets, churches, schools and villages. Today, Ukraine is witnessing what Biafra experienced between 1967 – 1970. This global hypocrisy must stop. Until today, the US, UN and the ICC have not held the British-Nigerian-Russian perpetrators accountable for the genocide and human rights atrocities these countries inflicted on the Biafran people. 50 years after, Biafrans remain in captivity in Nigeria after USSR bombs forced them to surrender. The UN and the USA cannot continue to behave like frightened rabbits when dictators are threatening to destroy the world. We cannot continue to kick the can of evil forward without action. Pariah states will wipe away humanity if humanity is afraid to save itself. Realism (power politics) can be preponderantly used to end the conflicts and wars it ignited.

How Russia Deals with The Past

In October 2021, following an incident in which NATO expelled eight Russian officials from its Brussels headquarters, Russia suspended its mission to NATO and ordered the closure of NATO's office in Moscow. Russia has ideological, security and economic interests in its neighboring state of Ukraine, the entire former USSR countries, and Africa. Whenever the Russian national interests are perceived to be threatened, it has various strategic options like any other country. Russia can choose from diplomacy, boycott, trade embargo to military force or war as the last option. From Russia's strategic point of view, Article 5 of NATO which states that "An attack on one member is an attack on all members," constitutes a serious security threat to the existence of the Russian nation state. Russia does not want Ukraine to join NATO since such action seemingly constitutes an existential threat to Russia. The contradiction, however, is that Ukraine is a sovereign nation state which has the right to exist without any outside intrusion.

On the contrary, Trumpism has not only polarized America, but it has also weakened the democratic foundation of the US Constitution. Putin, the strategist is a realist. He believes in "how is" while Biden the idealist believes in "how it ought to be" policy. Putin, in his political arithmetic

knows that the USA is so weak like a wimpy kid. The US Congress, which has the power to declare war and support Ukraine is fractured along ideological lines.

Ukraine is attracted by NATO members' democratic ideology. But what Ukraine does not seem to know is the degree of strategic buffoonery of the world's lone superpower which revolves regrettably on partisan politics. First, as a former child soldier, I know that supplying weapons to Ukraine by NATO nations openly and willfully is a declaration of war on Russia. Second, when Russia is currently decimating and obliterating Ukrainian towns and territories, does it make any sense to supply hand grenades and refuse to supply them with modern MIG fighter jets? Third, what happens when Russia decides to unleash chemical or nuclear bombs on perceived enemies? Fourth, what preparations have the US and UN made to protect Ukrainians should Russia decide on taking the path of mass suicide? Fifth, when would the US military experts and journalist stop exposing strategic or non-strategic information on national television? The US military lacks one of the most strategic weapons of warfare – the element of surprise!

Ukraine ought to understand that the US has no permanent friends and no permanent enemies but permanent interests. Yet, historically, a divided US Congress is the greatest enemy of the US foreign policy. Remember the unratified League of Nations – a great pacific creature created by President Woodrow Wilson, but which was killed by the US Congress which refused to ratify the League? The League eventually collapsed.

Ukraine and the moral world expect the US, as the Unipolar Superpower to form a global partnership to End Wars in the 21st century. The current challenges of freedom and democracy require new solutions and new strategic actions not buffoonery. If the Atlantic Slave Trade could be abolished, there is no doubt that war can also be abolished. Due to the nature of man, however, wars might never end. However, the belligerent country might be deterred by the collective military power of the global community.

The lesson we are learning from Ukraine is that the UN needs an urgent reform. The Security Council and the General Assembly should vote to abolish war among nations. The UN General Assembly needs the political teeth to bark and bite. In its current state, the UN is comparatively like a toothless bulldog that can only bark but cannot bite (use-of-force). In the new Ukraine World Order, let an attack on one nation be an attack on all nations. Five decades ago, the victim of Soviet aggression was Biafra. Today, it is Ukraine. But tomorrow, the Russian inferno might destroy not only Europe but the entire world. Join the campaign to ABOLISH WAR among nations. Power politics, despite its bloody culture, has an emancipatory mission. Save freedom! FreeUkraine! FreeBiafra!

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

March 14, 2022