

Canada and the Ukraine Powder Keg

A Conversation with John Helmer and Roger Annis. Global Research News Hour Episode 177

By [John Helmer](#), [Michael Welch](#), and [Roger Annis](#)

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Region: [Canada](#), [Russia and FSU](#)

Theme: [GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR](#),
[US NATO War Agenda](#)

"There are Canadians in a position to know who believe there is an operation against Freeland; that it started in Trudeau's office; and that it is picking up momentum in the foreign policy establishment. These sources believe Freeland got wind of the operation, and decided her best defence was a counterattack on Russia. If her defence fails, she goes. If she survives, her Ukrainian story will be a disqualification for higher office. Either way, Trudeau can calculate he wins." – John Helmer (March, 2017) [1]

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The month of March proved to be a busy and hectic one for Canada's newly Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Dogged by independent media reports about her maternal grandfather being a Nazi collaborator during World War II ([which proved to be correct](#)), Freeland address the issue during a March 6 press conference in Ottawa. She depicted the (true) revelations as part of a Russian attempt to destabilize the political system in Canada. [The conference itself](#) was intended as an announcement of the extension until the end of 2019 of Canada's "military training mission" in support of Ukraine.

Chrystia Freeland's granddad was indeed a Nazi collaborator – so much for Russian disinformation



DAVID PUGLIESE, OTTAWA CITIZEN

[More from David Pugliese, Ottawa Citizen](#)

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On March 31, Minister Freeland attended her first NATO foreign Ministerial meeting in Brussels, Belgium, and according to her [twitter feed](#), announced, "At NATO, reiterated that Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea & violence in Donbass will not be tolerated. CAD stands by Ukraine."

Meanwhile, on March 29th, a Polish consulate in Western-Ukraine [came under attack by a suspected anti-tank missile](#) causing structural damage. This was the latest of a string of attacks targeting Polish monuments in the region, indicative of a rise in extremism among Ukraine ultra-nationalists against Polish heroes and icons from the Second World War. As the [New Cold War website points out](#), this incident was presented by Western media as a “Russia did it” story, if it got any press coverage at all!

There is virtually no sustained media criticism or examination of Canadian policy in Ukraine. Hints of discord between Minister Freeland and Canada’s Foreign Affairs establishment go unexplored.

With these developments in the background, the Global Research News Hour devotes an hour examining Ukraine, now more than three years after the overthrow of the Yanukovych government, and how Canadian foreign policy is engaging the volatile country.

Our guests include John Helmer and Roger Annis.

John Helmer has served as a foreign correspondent in Russia since 1989, and is the only western journalist to direct his own bureau independent of single national or commercial ties. Helmer has also been a professor of political science, of sociology, and of journalism, and an advisor to government heads in Greece, the United States, and Asia. Helmer is among the most widely read Russian specialists in the business world for his news-breaking stories on Russian base and precious metals, diamonds, mining, shipping, insurance, food trade, and business policy. An archive of his articles can be found at his blog [Dances With Bears](#).

Roger Annis is a socialist and trade union activist. Annis writes regularly on topics of social justice and peace. He has written extensively about Canadian involvement in Haiti and, more recently, in Ukraine. He is a founding editor of the website [The New Cold War: Ukraine and beyond](#), which was launched in October 2014.

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Notes:

1. <http://johnhelmer.net/the-canadian-establishment-and-prime-minister-trudeau-aim-at-ousting-foreign-minister-chrystia-freeland/>

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