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Pentagon Updating War Plans Against Russia

By Stephen Lendman
Global Research, September 21, 2015

Region: Russia and FSU, USA
Theme: US NATO War Agenda

Longstanding US policy calls for regime change in all sovereign independent countries – by color revolutions or wars, notably targeting Russia, China, Iran and Venezuela, to eliminate major rivals and control world resources, especially oil.

The Pentagon maintains war plans against all targeted countries, updating them as needed, ready to act if ordered – risking potential global war.

On September 18, Washington Post-owned Foreign Policy magazine featured longtime anti-Russian writer Julia Ioffe's article headlined "Exclusive: The Pentagon Is Preparing New War Plans for a Baltic Battle Against Russia," saying:

> For the first time since the collapse of the Soviet Union, the US Department of Defense is reviewing and updating its contingency plans for armed conflict with Russia.

Putin is "no longer a potential partner, but a potential threat." An unnamed senior defense official ludicrously warned of "potential (Russian) aggression against" NATO allies.

Updated plans "have two tracks," said Ioffe: responding along with other NATO nations to an attack on one of its members or acting unilaterally.

Both versions focus on hypothetical "Russian aggression" in the Balkans, including so-called hybrid tactics, non-traditional warfare – similar to accusations of nonexistent "little green men" in Ukraine, as well as cyberwar and other destabilizing acts.

Claims about potential Russian aggression or other hostile acts are fabricated rubbish. Fear-mongering is a longstanding US tactic – a pretext to rev up military spending, enlist more allies in its war machine, and divert public attention from what matters most domestically: ending austerity, creating good full-time jobs and governance serving everyone equitably.

In June, Putin denounced Western "scaremongering." Its military footprint is polar opposite America's global empire of bases. Russia has "virtually no bases abroad," he explained.

The few remaining are Soviet era relics. "I think that only an insane person and only in a dream can imagine that Russia would suddenly attack NATO," he stressed.

> I think some countries are simply taking advantage of people's fears with regard to Russia. They just want to play the role of front-line countries that should receive some supplementary military, economic, financial or some other aid.

Ioffe's article is thinly veiled propaganda for greater US-led NATO military presence in Eastern Europe provocatively close to Russia's borders – based entirely on a nonexistent threat, the kind Washington invents ahead of all its aggressive wars.

Current Rand Corp. strategist/former US Defense Department official David Ochmanek contributed to the hyped threat saying Russia "outnumber(s) (all) US and NATO troops (combined) 2 – 1 in terms of manpower. (W)e are unable to defend the Baltics."

Russophobic writers like Ioffe ignore the real threat – US-led NATO's Eastern European expansion along with frequent provocative military actions close to Russia's borders, forcing its military to react defensively.

Deputy Defense Minister Anatoly Antonov said NATO is provoking Moscow into an "arms race." Reports of "American missiles put in a certain location (and) ammunition depots in Eastern European countries and the Baltics" force Russia to act.

Belligerent remarks, including Obama calling Ebola, Russia and ISIS America's greatest threats, Defense Secretary Ashton Carter saying Russia is a "very, very significant threat," and incoming Joint Chiefs Chairman General "fighting Joe" Dunford calling Russia's "behavior…alarming…an existential threat" heads things dangerously closer to direct confrontation.

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net.

His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III."

http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html

Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com.

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About the author:

Stephen Lendman lives in Chicago. He can be reached

at lendmanstephen@sbcglobal.net. His new book as editor and contributor is titled "Flashpoint in Ukraine: US Drive for Hegemony Risks WW III." http://www.claritypress.com/LendmanIII.html Visit his blog site at sjlendman.blogspot.com. Listen to cutting-edge discussions with distinguished guests on the Progressive Radio News Hour on the Progressive Radio Network. It airs three times weekly: live on Sundays at 1PM Central time plus two prerecorded archived programs.

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