

# U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter Implies Russia and China Are “Enemies” of America. What Next?

By [Eric Zuesse](#)

Global Research, November 11, 2015

*On Saturday November 7th, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, who had started his career at the Defense Department during the Reagan Administration as an aide to then-Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, Cold-Warring against the communist nations U.S.S.R. and China, delivered [a speech](#) saying, “We are in the middle of a strategic transition to respond to the security challenges that will define our future. ... We’re responding to Russia, one source of today’s turbulence, and China’s rise, which is driving a transition in the Asia-Pacific.”*

So: what has changed for him in all of that time? The weapons are more advanced; he expressed pride in that. And the former Warsaw Pact nations that were allied with the U.S.S.R. surrounding Russia, have increasingly joined NATO and become Russia’s enemies. (The U.S.S.R. terminated the Warsaw Pact, but the U.S. didn’t terminate NATO; instead, NATO with its former Warsaw Pact members increased from the 16 nations it had when the Soviet Union broke up, to the 28 nations today. And U.S. President Barack Obama and SecDef Carter want to increase that number to 29 by including Ukraine, which is on Russia’s border.)

Carter’s speech presented Russia repeatedly as constituting the “aggressor.” He actually used this term three times, two of which concerned Russia explicitly:

“We’re taking a strong and balanced approach to deter Russia’s aggression.”

“We are adapting our operational posture and contingency plans as we – on our own and with allies – work to deter Russia’s aggression.”

“We are also changing fundamentally our operational plans and approaches to deter aggression.”

None of his usages of “aggression” referred to jihadists, nor to the top funders of jihadists, the [Saudi](#) and [Qatari](#) royal families, respectively the Sauds and the Thanis. Instead, we arm those people, and they then send some of those arms to jihadists in Syria so as to remove from power Syria’s secular pro-Russian President, Bashar al-Assad.

Secretary Carter, like his boss President Obama, want Assad to be replaced by the fighters that the Sauds and Qataris are arming. Carter and Obama call these fighters “moderate Syrians,” though the secular Shiite Assad runs a non-religious government, and all of the fighters against him want a Sunni Islamic state, no *secular* state at all.

The U.S. government says that it supports democracy in Syria, so long as Bashar al-Assad (whom polls show would win any honest election there) isn't on the ballot. But when America's ally the Qatari regime, which funds al-Nusra (al-Qaeda in Syria), hired a polling firm in 2012 to survey Syrians, the finding was that [55% of Syrians wanted Assad to remain as President](#).

Then, as I reported on 18 September 2015, ["Polls Show Syrians Overwhelmingly Blame U.S. for ISIS,"](#) and those recent polls were from a British firm that has ties to Gallup. So, it's clear that any sort of democracy in Syria will be ruled by Assad, not by anyone acceptable to the U.S. Establishment, and that blocking him from the ballot would therefore make a mockery of any such 'democratic' election.

However, democracy in *any* Islamic state — as the U.S. and its allies claim to be pressing for there — is impossible, just as democracy in *any* religious state is impossible. (An example of this is America's 'ally' and \$3B-per-year recipient of our foreign aid, apartheid 'democratic' Israel, which still doesn't even have a constitution, because religious Jews there insist that any constitution must confirm all biblical laws.) It's impossible because sovereignty in *any* religious state rests with the given religion's 'god' as set forth in its Scripture, and *not*, not even possibly, with "We, the People ..." Democracy is therefore impossible without a strict separation between church and state. But none of the "jihadist" paramilitary forces that are fighting against Assad will tolerate such an outcome: they're all Sunni Islamists.

So, there exists an underlying hypocrisy behind the position that SecDef Carter is championing: victory for supposedly some faction of the forces against Assad, and also democracy in Syria.

Perhaps after the Soviet Union ended, America got dumbed down so that it's now the American dumbocracy. Or should that instead be spelled "dumocracy"? Well, whatever ...

#### Ashton Carter's Speech

Near the opening of the SecDef's speech, Carter triumphantly referred to [America's victory over the Soviet Union and the breaking down of the wall between East and West Berlin](#), and he said: "for those of us who worked in government during those dangerous days, as I did beginning in 1981, for Caspar Weinberger – we know how tough that wall was to crack, let alone tear down."

He mentioned the connection between Russia and 9/11:

That strength, which Reagan and others helped realize – people like Jim Schlesinger, Brent Scowcroft, Bill Perry, and Harold Brown, who were all mentors of mine – put the United States in position to respond to the day's crises, and take advantage of Soviet missteps. It gave post-Cold War leaders the power to bring East and West together and deepen the principled international order. And when we were attacked on September 11th, it gave America the power to respond.

That strength and the principled international order were part of the inheritance I received when I was sworn in as Secretary of Defense earlier this year.

In other words, he suggested that by boosting America's strategic nuclear forces in

response to Russia's 'aggression,' the U.S. will become better prepared to deal with and overcome jihadist suicide-bombers and Saudi-Qatari-financed jihadist groups such as ISIS and Al Qaeda.

He intimated that, somehow, there is a sort of dual-use advantage of strategic weapons: their application also against *non*-state enemies. For example, America's nuclear deterrent forces were useful in our killing bin Laden? Oh, maybe not that one. However, if those jihadist organizations [are financed by Arabic royal families \(such as bin Laden's Al Qaeda was\)](#), then those Arabic countries (Saudi Arabia and Qatar especially) are state enemies of the United States; and so, their being hostile toward Russia, as they have been and are, would mean that Russia is, actually, our ally, which then raises the question of why we need to arm against an ally (Russia) in order to be more effective against jihadists (the countries that are owned or controlled by those royals — 'our' allies).

So, SecDef Carter's reasoning seems a bit shady here. But the United States would not have a crooked man occupy such a straight office as he does. So, one must give him the benefit of every doubt — like the press and the American public gave George W. Bush and his 'Defense' Secretary Donald Rumsfeld before the press reported that [they had been liars](#). (Come to think of it: *did* the press report that? Is the press reporting it? *Will* the press report it? Those people clearly and incontrovertibly [were](#) liars. The press refuses to provide the [documentation](#) that it was lies and not 'merely' manipulated intelligence. And the press is repeating that performance with [Obama's lie](#) that it was Assad's forces and not the forces that Obama supports who were behind the August 2013 sarin gas attack which Obama is claiming to be the reason he's helping the anti-Assad forces — who [actually perpetrated it](#).)

He went on to assert that America, by virtue of [its exemplary troops and command-structure](#), has maintained the "international order" and attracted foreign "partners" in such a way as to lead the world in the fight against jihadists, and he then implied that Russia is trying to impede America's war against jihadists, and that China, is also doing that, in some way (which he declined to identify). He said:

At the most elemental, human level, our troops are attractive partners, they perform and conduct themselves admirably. I see this, and hear this from foreign leaders, around the world. They make us proud.

Despite that widespread appeal, some actors appear intent on eroding these principles and undercutting the international order that helps enforce them. Terror elements like ISIL, of course, stand entirely opposed to our values. But other challenges are more complicated, and given their size and capabilities, potentially more damaging.

Russia appears intent to play spoiler by flouting these principles and the international community. Meanwhile, China is a rising power, and growing more ambitious in its objectives and capabilities. Of course, neither Russia nor China can overturn that order, given its resilience and staying power. But both present different challenges for it.

The United States, and the men and women of the Defense Department, know that the good that a principled international order has done, and will do. But in the face of Russia's provocations and China's rise, we must embrace innovative approaches to protect the United States and strengthen that international order.

In Europe, Russia has been violating sovereignty in Ukraine and Georgia and actively trying to intimidate the Baltic states. Meanwhile, in Syria, Russia is throwing gasoline on an already dangerous fire, prolonging a civil war that fuels the very extremism Russia claims to oppose. ... Moscow's nuclear saber-rattling raises questions about Russia's leaders' commitment to strategic stability, their respect for norms against the use of nuclear weapons, and whether they respect the profound caution nuclear-age leaders showed with regard to the brandishing of nuclear weapons.

He asserted that Russia's actions are totally unacceptable, and he made clear that the U.S. has done nothing to provoke them:

*We do not seek a cold, let alone a hot war with Russia. [We do not seek to make Russia an enemy.](#)*

He makes clear that, in this country's differences with Russia, Russia alone is to blame. They are the aggressors, he asserts. (President Barack Obama's [National Security Strategy 2015](#) applies the term "aggression" 18 times, and 17 of them are referring to Russia; so, in retrospect, it is clear why Ashton Carter won Obama's support to become the U.S. Secretary of Defense. The U.S., of course, has no Secretary of War, and especially no Secretary of Offense; the U.S. never invades a foreign country, nor even perpetrates a coup there, unless the action is purely defensive on America's part. Only Russia and China do things like that.) So: although Russia and China are America's enemies; SecDef Carter is too *gentlemanly* to call them 'enemies': the United States merely responds to their 'provocations,' like a gentle parent would respond to a child who "brandishes nuclear weapons."

SecDef Carter makes clear that, despite America's lily-white intent:

The United States will defend our interests, and our allies, the principled international order, and the positive future it affords us all.

We're taking a strong and balanced approach to deter [Russia's aggression](#), and to help reduce the vulnerability of allies and partners.

We are adapting our operational posture and contingency plans as we – on our own and with allies – work to deter Russia's aggression, and to help reduce the vulnerability of allies and partners. The United States is accordingly making a number of moves in response, many but not all of which I can describe in this forum. We're modernizing our nuclear arsenal, so America's nuclear deterrent continues to be effective, safe, and secure, to deter nuclear attacks and reassure our allies.

We're investing in the technologies that are most relevant to Russia's provocations, such as new unmanned systems, a new long-range bomber, and innovation in technologies like the electromagnetic railgun, lasers, and new systems for electronic warfare, space and cyberspace, including a few surprising ones that I really can't describe here. We're updating and advancing our operational plans for deterrence and defense given Russia's changed behavior.

He is especially concerned about Russia's provocative actions to expand itself right up to the very borders of NATO, threatening to invade NATO allies and thus invade the U.S. itself; and he describes how the U.S. is dealing with Russia's expansionist threat:

For example in Eastern NATO states [the nations that border Russia], we're prepositioning tanks, infantry-fighting vehicles, artillery, and the associated equipment needed to participate in exercises and also to respond to crises and provocation.

We're providing enabling capabilities – a distinctively American characteristic – to strengthen NATO's new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force so it can respond flexibly to contingencies in Europe's East and South. This innovative capability has already become real: in June, I visited the VJTF – its land component, that is – in Germany.

We're taking part in more and different kinds [of] exercises with our allies to improve training and interoperability. [NATO performed admirably in Afghanistan](#) and the exercises today focusing on transitioning to newer threats that also require networked partnership, but very different operational approaches. In fact, TRIDENT JUNCTURE, the largest NATO exercise in 13 years, just ended...yesterday. General Breedlove, who is here, reports a very successful integration of combined U.S. and partner Marines, Navy, ground forces and air forces exercising against a high-end denied environment. Over 4,000 American troops participated in this exercise.

We're helping strengthen NATO's Cyber Defense Center of Excellence so it can help those nations develop cyber strategies, critical infrastructure protection plans, and cyber defense posture assessments.

And we're [providing equipment and training to aid Ukraine's military as it confronts Russian-supported insurgents in Eastern Ukraine](#). This summer I spent time with one of our rotational brigade combat teams at Graf in Germany. They represent a new approach: they'll fall-in on prepositioned equipment, conduct live-fire and simulated maneuver with partner nations, and improve their own readiness and cultural awareness through immersion during this rotation.

So we're doing all this; but, just as Reagan did, we are also taking a balanced approach to Russia. ... The United States will continue to hold out the possibility that Russia will assume the role of responsible power in the international order, a direction they seemed headed for much of the post-Cold War era.

He refers there to [the time before Vladimir Putin replaced Boris Yeltsin in 2000 as Russia's leader. That was the time when the United States was saying favorable things about Russia because Russia under Yeltsin was taking its guidance from the United States, people such as Lawrence Summers of the World Bank, and such as his Harvard Economics Department, and George Soros, and other champions of clean and honest, non-corrupt government](#), like we also are now seeing in Ukraine, after [Obama's coup](#) there in February 2014 [cleaned up that country](#), and [established peace there](#).

So: the reason why Russia and China are now enemies of America is that they're not doing what they are being told to do, by the people who are the experts in democracy, and in honest government, and in everything else that's of benefit to the whole world, except to nations like or allied with Russia or China, which nations, perhaps, can only be amazed at the extent of America's hypocrisy, or at the extent to which the American government can [bamboozle the American people, and even people in certain other countries](#), to believe anything the U.S. government says.

For example: not once in his speech does Carter use the term "communism" nor any sort of

reference to it — the idea that NATO had been established to exist as the democratic alternative to the Soviet Union's communism and to their Warsaw Pact (which ended in 1991 when the Soviet Union itself did) goes entirely unmentioned and not even hinted at, because he doesn't want to draw attention to the fact, now being made incontrovertible by Barack Obama and Ashton Carter, etc., that the real goal of the American aristocracy wasn't actually to end communism and bring democracy there; it was to defeat them and to take control of their oil and other resources. That's what they're trying to do in all this, while constantly accusing Russia and China of aggression against NATO — which lost its supposed reason-for-existence, in 1991, when the Warsaw Pact ended, but still hangs on, in order to extend the American Empire. Why aren't there boycotts of Western 'news' media, the ones which fail to point out or publish such truths? (Is it because their suckers aren't reading sites like you now are reading, the few honest sites that exist in the West?)

Russia and China use such crude propaganda-techniques (sometimes even extending so far as truth, which perhaps they think actually sells things), so that it is clear that Ashton Carter has a lot to teach them. He's hoping to teach them these lessons to Russia and China with better bombers, and "new systems for electronic warfare, space and cyberspace, including a few surprising ones that I really can't describe here."

That will educate Russian and China not to continue with their ["brandishing of nuclear weapons."](#)

#### Carter's Basic Message

Ashton Carter's message is Peace Through Strength: the only way to establish peace is by building and deploying more and better weapons, and by insulting 'enemy' nations without calling them "enemies." Our enemies are the nations that are 'provoking' 'peaceful' nations: provoking the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Qatar, all of our allies. After all, Saudi Arabia, right now, is using our marvelous weapons in Yemen, to establish peace there. By using our weapons, those kindly Saudi rulers are providing jobs for American workers. It's the only way to keep the world as peaceful as it is: it's the American way.

He said in his speech, "We all remember President Reagan's calls for Moscow to tear down the Berlin wall and for 'peace through strength.' His foreign policy, and approach to the Soviet Union, was both strong and balanced." (Perhaps Carter was there paying homage to the "Fair and Balanced" 'news' reporting at Fox 'News' Channel, where the type of thinking, such as he expressed, is routinely being pumped to its viewers.)

This is how to prevent Russia from engaging in 'provocations,' such as their defending themselves and preparing for an ultimate existential attack: WW III. Russia refuses to accept America's magnanimous help. Russians are so uncouth that they need to be terrorized into submission to the civilized United States. For example, on October 19th, Bloomberg News bannered, ["U.S. Approves \\$11 Billion Saudi Buy of Lockheed Littoral Ships"](#), and reported that, "The Pentagon has notified Congress of a planned sale to Saudi Arabia of as many as four Littoral Combat Ships made by Lockheed Martin Corp. for \$11.25 billion, as the U.S. works to bolster defenses of its Gulf allies."

The Saud family wants these ships so as to be able to kill Russians in Syria and to assist the jihadists whom the Saudis want to grab that country. This is 'Peace Through Strength.' So are the American bombs that the Saudi Air Force are dumping on Yemen to kill the evildoers there. Unfortunately, George Orwell's 1984 somehow missed that one, 'Peace Through



Strength,’ but America’s war-marketers don’t. After all, they’re paid to produce for their clients, and this is very much a ‘free market’ operation the U.S. runs.

The American elite’s strategic motivation, ‘Peace Through Strength,’ is so admirable — to the idiots who trust liars such as [the American elite](#). And to U.S. ‘defense’ contractors, it’s nothing short of inspirational (not to mention profitable; after all, ‘Greed Is Good’). These people are real professionals, and no one can top their marketing expertise. That’s the reason why there are all of those proposals in Congress to cut the government to the bone, with that remaining bone being the ‘defense’ establishment. The rest of the government is the portion of it with the ‘waste, fraud and abuse.’ It’s dispensable in [‘the one indispensable nation’ as President Obama calls it](#) (implying that every *other* nation *is* dispensable); and he states this repeatedly, [sometimes even to the military](#), so that they’ll know that every nation they’ll attack will *be* ‘dispensable.’ This Commander-in-Chief has their back. He knows that they’re the muscle that gets the job done for America.

They’re the muscle that’s attached to the bone. And, of course, the bone is the equipment: it’s the weapons. That’s firms such as Lockheed Martin, Raytheon, etc.

All we really need is the bone. It’s so clean and honest. It’s not ‘waste, fraud and abuse.’ That’s why it’s the foundation of The American Empire. Aristocrats everywhere know how important *that* is. It produces the bullets and bombs to kill the bad guys, and get the job done, for America, and *for the world*.

It’s so patriotic! It’s so noble; it’s the ultimate *Pax Americana*. And it’s so realistic: it recognizes that the only way to sustain the peace is by means of constant war, to establish a stable world order, with the one indispensable nation firmly in control of it — everywhere, and not *only* in Syria.

Thank you, Ashton Carter, for your inspiring speech.

*Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of [They’re Not Even Close: The Democratic vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010](#), and of [CHRIST’S VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity](#).*

The original source of this article is Global Research  
Copyright © [Eric Zuesse](#), Global Research, 2015

---

**[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)**

**[Become a Member of Global Research](#)**

Articles by: [Eric Zuesse](#)

About the author:

Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author, most recently, of *They’re Not Even Close: The Democratic*

## vs. Republican Economic Records, 1910-2010, and of CHRIST'S VENTRILOQUISTS: The Event that Created Christianity.

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)