

US Challenges Russia to Nuclear War

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

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

In-depth Report: [Nuclear War](#)

Now that the United States (with the cooperation of its NATO partners) has turned the former Soviet Union's states other than Russia into NATO allies, and has likewise turned the Soviet Union's Warsaw Pact allies into America's own military allies in NATO, the United States is finally turning the screws directly against Russia itself, by, in effect, challenging Russia to defend its ally Syria. The US is warning Syria's Government that Syrian land, which is occupied by the US and by the anti-Government forces that the US protects in Syria, is no longer really Syria's land. The US is saying that there will be direct war between Syria's armed forces and America's armed forces if Syria tries to restore its control over that land. Tacitly, America's message in this to Moscow is: now is the time for you to quit defending Syria's Government, because, if you don't — if you come to Syria's defense as Syria tries to kill those occupying forces (including the US troops and advisors who are occupying Syria) — then you (Russia) will be at war against the United States, even though the US is clearly the invader, and Russia (as Syria's ally) is clearly the defender.

Peter Korzun, my colleague at the Strategic Culture Foundation, headlined on May 29th, [“US State Department Tells Syria What It Can and Can't Do on Its Own Soil”](#) and he opened:

“The US State Department has [warned](#) Syria against launching an offensive against terrorist positions in southern Syria. The [statement](#) claims that the American military will respond if Syrian forces launch an operation aimed at restoring the legitimate government's control over the rebel-held areas, including the territory in southwestern Syria between Daraa and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. Washington is issuing orders to a nation whose leadership never invited America in the first place! The very idea that another country would tell the internationally recognized Syrian government that it cannot take steps to establish control over parts of its own national territory is odd and preposterous by any measure.”

The pro-Government side calls those “terrorist positions,” but the US-and-allied side, the invaders, call them “freedom fighters” (even though the US side has [long been led by Al Qaeda's Syrian affiliate and has increasingly been relying upon anti-Arabic Kurds](#)). But whatever they are, the United States has no legal authority to tell Syria's Government what to do or not do on Syrian land.

Russia's basic position, at least ever since Vladimir Putin came into power in 2000, is that every nation's sovereignty over its own land is the essential foundation-stone upon which democracy has even a possibility to exist — without that, a land cannot even possibly be a democracy. The US Government is now directly challenging that basic principle, and moreover is doing so over parts of the sovereign territory of Syria, an ally of Russia, which largely depends upon Russia to help it defeat the tens of thousands of invading and

occupying forces.

If Russia allows the US to take over — either directly or via the US Government's Al Qaeda-linked or its anti-Arab Kurdish proxy forces — portions of Syrian territory, then Russia's leader, Vladimir Putin, will be seen as being today's version of Britain's leader Neville Chamberlain, famous, [as Wikipedia puts it](#), for "his signing of the [Munich Agreement](#) in 1938, conceding the German-speaking [Sudetenland](#) region of [Czechoslovakia](#) to [Germany](#)."

So: Putin will now be faced with either knuckling under now, or else standing on basic international democratic principles, especially the principle that each nation's sovereignty is sacrosanct and is the sole foundation upon which democracy is even possible to exist or to evolve into being.

However, this matter is far from being the only way in which the US Government now is challenging Russia to World War III. On May 30th, the Turkish newspaper Yeni Safak bannered ["US trains armed groups at Tanf base for new terror corridor"](#) and reported that:

New terror organizations are being established by the US at the Tanf military base in southern Syria that is run by Washington, where a number of armed groups are being trained in order to be used as a pretext to justify US presence in the war-torn country. ...

Military training is being conducted for "moderate" opposition groups in al-Tanf, where both the US and UK have bases.

These groups are made up of structures that have been established through US financing and have not been accepted under the umbrella of opposition groups approved by Turkey and the FSA.

From Deir Ezzor to Haifa

Claiming to be "training the opposition" in Tanf, the US is training operation militants under perception of being "at an equal distance to all groups."

Apart from the so-called opposition that is linked to al-Qaeda, Daesh [ISIS] terrorists brought from Raqqa, western Deir Ezzor and the Golan Heights are being trained in the Tanf camp. ...

The plan is to transport Iraqi oil to the Haifa [Israel] Port on the Mediterranean through Deir Ezzor and Tanf.

Actually, Deir Ezzor is also the capital of Syria's own oil-producing region, and so this action by the United States is more than about merely a transit-route for Iraq's oil to reach Israel; it is also (and very much) about America attempting theft of oil from Syrian land.

Furthermore, on May 23rd, Joe Gould at Defense News headlined ["House rejects limit on new nuclear warhead"](#) and he reported that the US House, in fulfillment of the Trump Administration's Nuclear Posture Review, which seeks to lower the threshold for nuclear war so as to expand the types of circumstances in which the US will "go nuclear," rejected, by a vote of 226 to 188, a Democratic Party supported measure opposing lowering of the nuclear threshold. President Trump wants to be allowed to lower the threshold for using nuclear weapons in a conflict. The new, smaller, nuclear warheads, a "W76-2 variant," have 43% the

yield of the bomb that the US dropped on Hiroshima, but it's called a 'tactical nuclear weapon' meaning that it is supposedly intended for use in 'conventional' wars, so that it is actually designed to eliminate altogether the previous meta-strategic principle, of "Mutually Assured Destruction" pertaining to nuclear war (that nuclear weapons are justifiable only in order to prevent another World War, never in order to win such a war) that successfully prevented nuclear war till now — that once a side has introduced nuclear weapons into a military conflict, it has started a nuclear war and is challenging any opponent to either go nuclear itself or else surrender — America's new meta-strategic doctrine (since 2006) is "Nuclear Primacy": *winning* a nuclear war. (See [this](#) and [this](#).)

US President Trump is now pushing to the limit, presumably in the confident expectation that as the US President, he can safely grab any territory he wishes, and steal any oil or other natural resource that he wishes, anywhere he wants — regardless of what the Russian Government, or anyone else, thinks or wants.

Though his words often contradict that, this is now clearly what he is, in fact, *doing* (or trying to do), and the current US House of Representatives, at least, is saying yes to this, as constituting American values and policies, now.

Trump — not in words but in facts — is "betting the house" on this.

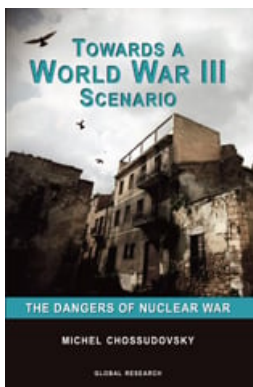
Moreover, as I headlined on May 26th at Strategic Culture, ["Credible Report Alleges US Relocates ISIS from Syria and Iraq into Russia via Afghanistan."](#) Trump is apparently trying to use these terrorists as — again like the US used them in Afghanistan in order to weaken the Soviet Union — so as to weaken Russia, but this time is even trying to infiltrate them *into Russia itself*.

Even Adolf Hitler, prior to WWII, didn't lunge for Britain's jugular. It's difficult to think of a nation's leader who has been this bold. I confess that I can't.

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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](#). He is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

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["Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War"](#)

by Michel Chossudovsky

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[Michel Chossudovsky](#) is Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa and Director of the Centre for Research on Globalization (CRG), which hosts the critically acclaimed website www.globalresearch.ca. He is a contributor to the Encyclopedia Britannica. His writings have been translated into more than 20 languages.

Reviews

"This book is a 'must' resource – a richly documented and systematic diagnosis of the supremely pathological geo-strategic planning of US wars since '9-11' against non-nuclear countries to seize their oil fields and resources under cover of 'freedom and democracy'."

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–Denis Halliday, Former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations

Michel Chossudovsky exposes the insanity of our privatized war machine. Iran is being targeted with nuclear weapons as part of a war agenda built on distortions and lies for the purpose of private profit. The real aims are oil, financial hegemony and global control. The price could be nuclear holocaust. When weapons become the hottest export of the world's only superpower, and diplomats work as salesmen for the defense industry, the whole world is recklessly endangered. If we must have a military, it belongs entirely in the public sector. No one should profit from mass death and destruction.

–Ellen Brown, author of 'Web of Debt' and president of the Public Banking Institute



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