

US Control over Ukraine and the Encirclement of Russia: A Longstanding Strategic Objective

Obama's Former Foreign Policy Adviser Said – In 1997 – that the U.S. Had to Gain Control of Ukraine

By [Washington's Blog](#)

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The Battle for Ukraine Was Planned in 1997 ... Or Earlier

Neoconservatives planned regime change throughout the Middle East and North Africa [20 years ago](#). Robert Parry correctly points out that the Neocons have [successfully “weathered the storm”](#) of disdain after their Iraq war fiasco.

But the truth is that Obama has long [done his best](#) to try to implement those Neocon plans.

Similarly, [ever since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991](#), the U.S. has pursued a strategy of encircling Russia, just as it has with other perceived enemies like China and Iran.

In 1997, Obama's former foreign affairs adviser, and president Jimmy Carter's national security adviser – Zbigniew Brzezinski – wrote a book called *The Grand Chessboard* arguing that the U.S. had to take control of Ukraine (as well as Azerbaijan, South Korea, Turkey and Iran) because they were “critically important geopolitical pivots”.

Regarding Ukraine, Brzezinski [said](#) (hat tip [Chris Ernesto](#)):

Ukraine, a new and important space on the Eurasian chessboard, is a geopolitical pivot because its very existence as an independent country helps to transform Russia. Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be a Eurasian empire.

However, if Moscow regains control over Ukraine, with its 52 million people and major resources as well as access to the Black Sea, Russia automatically again regains the wherewithal to become a powerful imperial state, spanning Europe and Asia.

And now Obama is pushing us into a confrontation with Russia over Ukraine and the Crimea.

As Ernesto [notes](#):

Late last year when Ukraine's now-ousted president Viktor Yanukovich surprisingly canceled plans for Ukrainian integration into the European Union in favor of stronger ties with Russia, the US may have viewed Ukraine as slipping even further out of its reach.

At that point, with the pieces already in place, the US moved to support the ousting of Yanukovych, as evidenced by the [leaked phone conversation between US Assistant Secretary of State Victoria Nuland](#) [arch-Neocon [Robert Kagan](#)'s wife] [and US Ambassador to Ukraine Geoffrey Pyatt](#). When peaceful protests were not effective in unseating Yanukovych, the violence of the ultra-nationalist Svoboda party and Right Sector was embraced, [if not supported by the west](#).

In today's Ukraine, the US runs the risk of being affiliated with anti-Semitic neo-Nazis, a prospect it probably feels can be controlled via a friendly western media. But even if the risk is high, the US likely views it as necessary given the geopolitical importance of Ukraine, as Brzezinski mapped out in 1997.

In other words, Obama is following the same old playbook that the Neocons have been pushing for more than a decade.

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