

US Missiles on Russia's Border: The Dangerous Ignorance of Germany's New Foreign Minister

By [Eric Zuesse](#)

Global Research, December 18, 2021

Region: [Europe](#)

Theme: [US NATO War Agenda](#)

Germany's new Foreign Minister, [Annalena Baerbock](#) came into office on December 8th without her knowing that America's stationing missiles in Ukraine on Russia's border, and only a 7-minute flying distance away from Moscow, would be even more unacceptable to Moscow than, in 1962, [would have been, to Washington, the Soviet Union's stationing missiles in Cuba, fifteen minutes of flying-time away from Washington](#), during the Cuban Missile Crisis. She's evidently so much of a neoconservative (supporter of U.S. imperialism) that Baerbock had been ignoring this crucial and simple fact of international relations throughout her entire prior 17-year career in politics, before becoming appointed as Germany's Foreign Minister.

She had ignored it so much so that Russia's Foreign Minister, Sergei Lavrov, during [his introductory phone-conversation with her on December 14th](#), found in the course of the conversation with her, that he *had to* [explain it to her](#). This is rather shocking.

She [didn't even know why](#) Germany's leader, during 2005-2021, Angela Merkel, had — along with France's leader Francois Hollande — established in the Minsk agreements for settling the Ukrainian war the "Normandy Format" for negotiations between Ukraine (on Russia's border) and its 2014 breakaway Donbass region, in order to establish, at Minsk, a truce-agreement between those two sides (Ukraine and its breakaway region) and agree to negotiate between themselves a permanent peace-settlement, by which Donbass would again be a part of Ukraine and voting in Ukrainian Presidential elections, but would be granted, by Ukraine, some degree of internal autonomy (and guaranteed peace). It would peacefully settle the Ukrainian war.

Baerbock hasn't yet committed herself on whether to honor or even respect the armistice treaty that Merkel, Hollande, and Putin, had jointly achieved between Ukraine and Donbass, at Minsk. However, she has committed herself clearly on all other issues as supporting the same views that the U.S. Government has endorsed. The U.S. Government did not participate, in any way, in the Minsk agreements, and so she could come out rejecting them — or else endorsing only the Minsk provisions that the Ukrainian side had favored, and rejecting the provisions that the Donbass side had favored. In other words: she could come out seeking to replace the Minsk agreements, or even as outright endorsing a *resumption* of Ukraine's 2014-2015 effort to conquer Donbass militarily and treating all residents there as being "terrorists" until those residents become conquered.

Baerbock's ignorance serves well the U.S. Government's long-term goal of conquering Russia (because it allows her to be the neocon that she has always been), but it disserves the people of Germany by subordinating the interests of the German people to the interests of America's billionaires who own oil-and-gas (and other) companies that are in competition

against ones in Russia, and it could even lead to another World War in which Europe (including especially Germany) would be the main battleground. This is clearly NOT in the interests of the German people.

.
Baerbock, in service to America's billionaire investors in fracked gas that becomes liquefied into canisters and then would be shipped into Germany and other EU countries to replace the much cheaper pipelined gas from Russia, has always criticized Germany's policy of buying the far less expensive German gas; but in these times of soaring gas prices in Europe, her policy is even more costly to Germans than it had previously been. She is apparently determined to do everything to prevent the recently completed Nord Stream 2 gas-pipeline from Russia into Germany from being allowed to begin operation — and she does this in order to serve American investors, who aim to increase their sales to Europe.

.
She also was apparently ignorant about the Minsk accords and their Normandy format and the reasons why Angela Merkel and Francois Hollande had created them in order to establish a constructive truce in the hot war that was then raging between the invader Ukraine and its former region Donbass (which people Ukraine's Government routinely referred to as "terrorists" in Ukraine's "Anti-Terrorist Operation" or "ATO"). And that is what is not only psychopathic (like her insistence on buying U.S. gas instead of Russian gas), but shocking.

.
On December 17th, NATO's chief, its Secretary General (who always expresses the U.S. President's viewpoint) Jens Stoltenberg, contemptuously called Russia [the "aggressor"](#) and rejected Russia's "red lines" (national-security demands), and he especially emphasized that [Russia would have no say, whatsoever, regarding whether or not NATO will accept Ukraine's bid for membership in the anti-Russian military alliance](#). Since Baerbock has consistently endorsed the views that have been expressed by NATO's Secretaries General, one may reasonably expect that she will ignore what Lavrov had said to her on December 14th. If she, on this matter, will not ignore the information she received from Russia, that would indicate a fundamental change in her expressed positions, and the likelihood for a Third World War will then be considerably reduced.

.
Investigative historian Eric Zuesse is the author 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, 2021

[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

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