

If You Poke a Bear Long Enough - Part 1

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Grizzly In A Cage, Hiking Trip Gone Terribly Wrong, A Bear Robbed Of Its Whelps: Metaphor For Anger, Primary Emphasis Of Bill's Bible Basics And Christian Social Network Ministries, Deceived By The Spin Doctors, Propaganda Agents And Drinking The Kool-Aid, Angry Russian Bear, NATO Has Stolen Russia's Bear Cubs, America And NATO Asked For The War, Manipulate The Facts To Convince The Public, Russia's Legitimate National Security Concerns Ignored By USA And NATO, Why Putin Is So Set On Getting Back Ukraine, Imagine If Roles Were Reversed, Cuban Missile Crisis, America's Hypocrisy, American Hegemony, Berlin Wall NATO And America's New Iron Curtain, Spheres Of Influence, Russia Is A Part Of Europe, My Position Regarding Russia And Politics In General, We Are Not Of This World, We Should Promote God's Kingdom, American Manipulation Of The Truth, I Don't Support The Ukraine Invasion, I Am Opposed To Violence And War, Vladimir Putin Is Not The Only Aggressor, Both Sides To Blame, USA Should Stay Out Of European Affairs

Imagine if you will, that one day you decide to take your child to the city zoo. While you are enjoying all of God's natural creations at the zoo, you come upon an old grizzly bear. Unlike many of the other animals at the zoo which have been given habitats which have large open spaces, for some reason, the poor, forlorn-looking grizzly has been confined to a cage with steel bars. Obviously, he is not very happy. In fact, unless he has already accepted his imprisonment and succumbed to defeat, he may be seething with anger inside due to his dismal circumstances.

While you are distracted with taking your cell phone out of your bag so that you can take a video of the poor creature, unbeknownst to you, your child grabs a stick from the nearby bushes and begins to poke the bear, not realizing the danger in which he is placing himself. Suddenly, without warning, the bear lashes out through the bars and strikes your child, leaving a huge, terrible gash on his arm. Totally freaked

out, you wrap the child's arm tightly in his jacket to try to slow down the flow of blood, and then you rush off to the zoo's first aid station as fast as your legs can carry you.

Thankfully, the first aid station isn't too far away, and your child soon receives medical attention. Although he is obviously quite visibly shaken by the horrible incident, you are relieved to learn that due to the child's distance from the bars of the cage, the wound is not quite as bad as it looks. At worst, he may possibly be left with a small scar on his arm. But concerning yourself, you are angry! In fact VERY angry! Once your child has been attended to, you march off to the zoo's central office full of indignation. Oh boy! You are going to let them have it! "Why in the world would they even keep such a dangerous animal at their zoo?", you ask yourself. Maybe you ought to sue them, right?

But let me ask you something; and I hope that you will give an honest answer. Who is really to blame with regards to this incident? The zoo's management, you, or your child? The zoo is obviously more than aware of the dangerous nature of the grizzly bear. In fact, it has long been their policy to post clear warning signs all around the zoo where particularly dangerous animals are being housed. Zoo visitors are advised to maintain a safe distance from certain habitats and cages at all times. Likewise, in certain cases, a double security fence has been constructed around the enclosures. The zoo is obviously concerned with liability. Thus, it has taken all necessary precautions to protect itself. In short, the zoo simply cannot be blamed for what happened to your child.

What about the bear? Can we blame the grizzly? Hardly. After all, it was unjustly provoked by your child, who innocently, and repeatedly, poked the bear with a stick, totally unaware of the dangerous situation that he was creating through his foolishness. In short, that old grizzly was simply acting according to its own nature, as had been given to it by God. So the truth of the matter is that if blame is to be cast on anyone, it would have to be on you -- for becoming distracted -- and on your child -- for behaving in a foolish manner that placed him in danger.

Let me give you another example. Imagine that you and a few of your buddies are out hiking in the beautiful forests of your country. While going down a particular winding trail, you happen upon a momma grizzly with a few of her whelps, or cubs. Now, all along the trail, the forestry department has

posted signs which warn hikers to keep a safe distance from large wildlife. While your buddies quickly back away so that the grizzly and her whelps can pass by and be on their way, you foolishly decide that the cubs are just so cute, that you have to get up close in order to take a video of yourself petting one of them. After all, wouldn't it be so cool to be able to post the vid on some of your favorite social networks for all of your online friends to see and admire? Idiot!

Obviously, you are not the brightest crayon in the box. I am sure that I do not even need to inform you of what is going to happen next. First of all, that bear and her whelps are in their natural environment. It is you and your friends who are invading THEIR territory. It is THEIR neighborhood, not yours. Nevertheless, not happy with that alone, you stupidly decide to take it a step further, and endanger yourself by approaching the momma grizzly and her cubs. Tsk, tsk! What did you think would happen? A week later, your obituary is posted in the local newspaper.

It may interest you to know that even in the Holy Bible, an angry mother bear that has lost her whelps is metaphorically used several times as a picture of anger. Consider this set of verses:

"Then said Absalom, Call now Hushai the Archite also, and let us hear likewise what he saith. And when Hushai was come to Absalom, Absalom spake unto him, saying, Ahithophel hath spoken after this manner: shall we do after his saying? if not; speak thou. And Hushai said unto Absalom, The counsel that Ahithophel hath given is not good at this time. For, said Hushai, thou knowest thy father [King David] and his men, that they be mighty men, and they be chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field: and thy father is a man of war, and will not lodge with the people."
2 Samuel 17:5-8, KJV

"Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly."
Proverbs 17:12, KJV

"Therefore I will be unto them as a lion: as a leopard by the way will I observe them: I will meet them as a bear that is bereaved of her whelps, and will rend the caul of their heart, and there will I devour them like a lion: the wild beast shall tear them."
Hosea 13:7-8, KJV

Moving on, if you are an intelligent and observant reader, I imagine that you have more than likely already comprehended the point that I am making with the previous two fictional stories. In fact, just looking at the graphic which I have made to accompany this series, clearly reveals why I shared those accounts with you.

So, let us get down to the gist of the matter, shall we? As my longtime readers will already know, while I've written a number of politically-oriented articles and series during the course of the past three decades plus, I don't do it on a regular basis. Why is this? Well, as I've mentioned on a number of previous occasions, it is because that is not what I am really about. Since its inception, the primary emphasis of the Bill's Bible Basics ministry has always been to share the Word of God. It is to edify, educate, inspire, convict and motivate my fellow brethren in the Lord, by opening up their understanding to the meaning of the Holy Scriptures, so that they can live fuller lives in service to the Lord, and be more effective witnesses of their Christian faith.

However, as I said, sometimes I do deviate from that primary goal on occasion. What I am about to say will no doubt ruffle the feathers of some patriotic Americans, including some of my own Christian brethren. What quite often motivates me to momentarily change course in my writing, is the fact that I will observe some of my own online Christian friends being deceived by, and promoting the lies of, the spin doctors. I am of course referring to the mainstream media, as well as some government figures, certain television and radio hosts, some book and magazine publishers, and even movie producers and directors.

What you need to understand -- perhaps you do already -- is that whether they are an individual, or an institution, even if they do not personally realize it -- which is doubtful -- they are all propaganda agents for one side or the other. In other words, they're being used to promote a perspective that is in agreement with what the government desires for you to believe. Their job is to psychologically manipulate you, and to shape your personal perspective, so that it conforms to the worldview of your government. In short, their job is to induce you to drink the Kool-Aid, and to get you on board with the government's agenda, whatever it happens to be.

So, when I see a lot of my online Christian brethren drinking

their poisonous brew, and not only drinking it, but spouting it off like mindless parrots, at first I'll do my best to try to keep quiet for a while, simply because I already have a lot on my plate with both facets of my online ministry. That is, with Bill's Bible Basics and the Christian Social Network. However, if such deceptive nonsense is constantly thrown in my face on the social networks, then eventually I'm motivated to say something about it. I will write an impromptu article about it, as in this case. I will share my personal views for your consideration. You are under no obligation to agree with me if you don't want to. That is your choice.

So let's get back to the story of the bear. It should already be obvious to you who the bear represents in the previous two fictional stories. Of course, it is Russia. In fact, in 1998, I wrote two articles called "Communism: The Raging Bear Out of Control!" and "Communism: Is the Dead Beast Really Dead?". If you are interested in reading them, you'll find links for them at the end of this same series. Over the years I have also composed a few poems, and created a few graphics, where I have Russia represented by a bear.

Just as occurs in my two stories, not just for years, but in fact for decades, the Russian bear has been poked, prodded and provoked by the foolish behavior of the Western Bloc; meaning the U.S.A. and its NATO allies. Don't think for a minute that the United States of America and its NATO allies didn't know exactly what they were doing with their slow but gradual expansion into the former Eastern Bloc nations of Europe; namely East Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania. The U.S.A. and her European cohorts purposely provoked the Russian bear again and again. Worse yet, they didn't want to just take pictures of the cubs as occurs in my story. They have wanted to, and have in fact succeeded in, stealing most of momma Russia's whelps! They have really crossed the line! Why should it surprise anyone then when Russian president, Vladimir Putin, finally decides to react in a very decisive manner by trying to take back at least one cub, meaning Ukraine?

In my view, Putin is right about one thing. Contrary to what you may be reading in the American press, the United States was purposely asking for this war. She, along with her NATO allies, pressured and pushed Mr. Putin to make the decision that he made just a few days ago. They cornered the grizzly, and then they started poking at her, just like in my previous story. They wanted to see how far they could go, and how many

bear cubs they could steal, before momma bear would strike back. Then, when she finally did strike -- by invading Ukraine -- they totally twisted the facts and painted the bear as the villain, just as the parent wanted to blame the zoo for the bear hurting their child. We all know that the Devil is the same way. He will entice you to do something which you know you shouldn't do, and then when you do it, he accuses and condemns you for having done it, right?

As I noted earlier, every government has their spin doctors whose job it is to convince the public of the government's point of view. These deceivers will twist the facts, or omit certain facts which may be contrary to what they want you to believe, or embellish and exaggerate some facts, for the sole purpose of convincing you to accept the party line. They will lie to your face, while smiling all the while. Not only that, but some of them actually believe what they are saying. This reminds me of the following two verses:

"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!"

Isaiah 5:20, KJV

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived."

2 Timothy 3:13, KJV

Right now, despite the facts which I have presented to you here, the American mainstream media, and the government, are both painting a false narrative. They are painting Vladimir Putin as the big, bad wolf who is invading another country, while purposely neglecting to inform you that for about the past thirty years, ever since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, they've been taking advantage of Russia's post-Soviet era weakness, by slowly pushing ever eastward towards Russian borders. They forced the bear into a corner, stole her cubs, and then forced her to finally fight back.

So as far as I am concerned, the U.S.A. and her NATO allies asked for this war through their own belligerent attitude in adamantly rejecting any requests which were made by Putin to seriously consider the national security concerns of Russia. What are Putin's concerns? As I stated before, they include the fact that a number of former Eastern Bloc nations which either directly touch Russia's western border -- that is, the three Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania -- or

which border Belarus and Ukraine -- that is, Poland, Slovakia (formerly Czechoslovakia), Hungary and Romania -- are now NATO members, and host both NATO troops and NATO military hardware. If you have been following the latest developments closely, then you probably already know that Mr. Putin has demanded that NATO's presence in those countries be reduced immediately and significantly.

Putin's second demand is that Ukraine never be permitted to become a member of NATO. After all, in addition to being the second largest nation in Europe after Russia itself, Ukraine is flush against Russia's border. So, if Ukraine were ever to be admitted as a new member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, it would put NATO forces right at Russia's very doorstep, just as now occurs with the Baltic States to the north. This is obviously unacceptable to Mr. Putin.

Now, to put all of this in proper perspective for you, and to help you to better grasp exactly why Putin is so upset, and why he would even risk starting World War III, I ask you to please consider the map below. It might interest you to know that the Ukraine-Russia border is 1,426.07 miles in length. Of that total, 1,226.61 miles constitute land border, while another 199 miles constitutes sea border. My friends, that is a lot of border to be controlled by NATO, staring right in the face of Russia!

[Map of Ukraine goes here in HTML version]

Now do you get it? If Ukraine were ever to be admitted to the NATO alliance, the only remaining buffer zone between Russia and NATO members would be Belarus, which as of this moment is siding with, and aiding, Russia in its current incursion into Ukraine. Now, for my American friends who still don't get it, then consider this. Imagine if roles were reversed. How would you feel if Russia stationed both troops and lethal military hardware in Canada, Mexico, and on some of the Caribbean islands? How would Uncle Sam react if this were to occur? Do you think the American government would just roll over and say "I'm cool with that."? Hardly! In fact, some of you are old enough to remember the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, and how close we may have come to actual nuclear war.

For those of my younger readers who may not be familiar with this incident, after the U.S.A. placed ballistic missiles in Italy and Turkey, and following the 1961 failed Bay of Pigs Invasion of Cuba, in response, then First Secretary of the

Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Nikita Khrushchev, chose to accept Fidel Castro's invitation to place nuclear missiles in Cuba. Castro's plan was for the missiles to serve as a deterrent against the potential future invasion of Cuba by American forces. This occurred during the presidency of John F. Kennedy.

So what happened? Well, when photographic evidence confirmed the presence of missile launch facilities in Cuba, as was to be expected, the situation exploded. Rather than strike Cuba, President Kennedy ordered that a naval quarantine be set up around the island, in order to prevent additional missiles from entering Cuba. But that is not all; and this is the real clincher which ties into what is currently happening with the situation in Ukraine. In addition to the quarantine, Kennedy also demanded that any existing weapons already in Cuba, be dismantled, and then returned to the Soviet Union.

"Wait! What did you just say, Bill?" That's right, my friends. President Kennedy demanded that any existing weapons already in Cuba be dismantled, and then returned to the Soviet Union. So now we jump ahead exactly sixty years to 2022, and we find Russian president, Vladimir Putin, making very similar demands with regards to the NATO troops, missiles and other military hardware which are currently in position in the former Eastern Bloc nations. So tell me, my friends; how are Putin's demands any less valid than President Kennedy's demands sixty years ago? Can you smell the American hypocrisy yet?

Again, if you have been following the news, the United States and its NATO partners have absolutely refused to even consider Putin's demands with regards to keeping Ukraine out of NATO, and removing NATO troops and military hardware out of Eastern Bloc countries. According to news reports, such considerations are not even on the table; and that is exactly what has led to the current situation in Ukraine. Unlike the Soviet Union which backed down sixty years ago and removed its missiles from Cuba, the U.S.A. and its NATO allies refuse to budge even an inch! So who is to blame? Is it really Putin who has legitimate security concerns? Or is it America whose head is filled with thoughts of hegemony?

Don't be deceived, my friends. That's what this is really all about. Hegemony. That is to say, American dominance over other nations, and extending the American sphere of influence as far and as wide as possible, while at the same time hindering the advancement of its competitors; namely Russia and China.

Many of my older readers will be familiar with the Berlin Wall which divided western Germany from eastern Germany, the latter of which was a member of the Soviet Bloc of nations. While that physical wall eventually came down in 1989, guess what? For the past thirty years, the U.S.A. and its partners in Europe have been building an invisible wall in order to box in the Russian Federation, just as that zoo in our story kept its grizzly bear behind bars.

What am I talking about? That wall is called NATO, and there are only two blocks left to add, before the construction of the wall will be completed. Those two blocks are Ukraine and Belarus. Once that is accomplished, Russia will be totally blocked from any westward expansion, which is exactly what the United States of America wants. You know, for forty-six years, from about 1945 to 1991, the so-called "Iron Curtain" separated the peoples of the Eastern Bloc countries from the peoples of the Western Block countries. If you stop and think about it, ever since the fall of the Soviet Union, the U.S.A. and its NATO partners in Europe have been slowly building a new Iron Curtain. We could even say that they have simply moved the original Iron Curtain further east, right up to Russia's western border.

That, my friends, is precisely what has Vladimir Putin riled up and on the war path right now. He sincerely believes, and even openly declares, that Russia has just as much right to have its own sphere of influence, as does the United States. The truth of the matter is that Russia is widely recognized as being a part of Europe. It is not a part of Asia. Oddly enough, despite this truth, in the United States of America, the spin doctors are engaged in a game to try to convince the American public that Putin's Russia is a totally separate beast. Not only is it a separate beast, in their view, but it is an evil beast which must be kept behind NATO's bars, just like the grizzly bear at that zoo.

Before continuing, I would like to make two important points. The first one is the following. No doubt some of my liberal leaning readers -- if there even are any -- and perhaps some of my more patriotic Christian readers as well, are probably thinking to themselves, "Wow, Bill! It certainly sounds like you are supporting Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation! What kind of American are you? Are you a Communist, or what?" No, my friends; I am certainly not a Communist. Neither do I like Mr. Putin, or support the Russian Federation. As I have mentioned a number of times in previous articles, while I'll

sometimes write about political issues, I am not political in any way. I do not belong to any political party, and I don't support any national government. In fact, I have never voted a single time in my entire life.

"WHAT???!!! You have never voted, Bill???" That's right, my friends. I have never voted, not even one time. My longtime readers will already know that I have a very different view when it comes to our relationship with the world. I believe that while we are currently in the world, we are not a part of it; and that we should only interface with it, as much as may be necessary, in order to accomplish the task which the Lord has given each of us to do. I base my beliefs on the following verses, and others which are similar to them:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

John 15:19, KJV

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"

2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV

"No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

2 Timothy 2:4, KJV

"Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God."

James 4:4, KJV

So, I firmly believe that it is our job as Bible-believing Christians, to support and promote the Kingdom of God, and not the corrupt kingdoms of men, which will someday meet an end anyway. We are to be the ambassadors of Christ, and not the ambassadors of earthly governments. In the previous set of verses, the Apostle Paul says that we are not to entangle ourselves "with the affairs of this life." Taken together with the rest of the verses, personally, I feel compelled to not vote for political leaders. You may believe otherwise.

Now concerning Vladimir Putin and the Russian Federation,

while I do not like or support them, I do believe in sharing the truth; at least as I personally understand it. I don't like it when people -- particularly my Christian brethren -- are purposely manipulated by the lies and deceptions of the spin doctors of this present world. As I have already made clear, that is precisely what I see happening with some of my friends on the social networks, such as on Facebook. The American government, along with its propaganda organs, is intentionally painting a distorted narrative, by purposely omitting important facts from the story, such as why Putin has finally resorted to violence.

Do I approve of Putin's military incursion into Ukraine? Of course not! As a Bible-believing Christian, for many years now, based on my personal understanding of the Scriptures, I have embraced the view that all violence and killing is just wrong. That certainly includes war between nations. Again, I base my beliefs on Bible verses such as the following ones:

"Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."

Psalms 20:7, KJV

"But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace."

Psalms 37:11, KJV

"My soul hath long dwelt with him that hateth peace. I am for peace: but when I speak, they are for war."

Psalms 120:6-7, KJV

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Isaiah 2:4, KJV

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Micah 4:3, KJV

"Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth . . .
Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the

children of God . . . But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."

Matthew 5:5, 9, 44-45, KJV

"And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus [meaning the Apostle Peter] stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?"

Matthew 26:51-53, KJV

"And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, And sent messengers before his face: and they went, and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village."

Luke 9:51-56, KJV

"When they which were about him saw what would follow, they said unto him, Lord, shall we smite with the sword? And one of them smote the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And Jesus answered and said, Suffer ye thus far. And he touched his ear, and healed him."

Luke 22:49-51, KJV

"Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus. Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"

John 18:10-11, KJV

"If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably

with all men."

Romans 12:18, KJV

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)"

2 Corinthians 10:4, KJV

"From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

James 4:1-3, KJV

"He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints."

Revelation 13:10, KJV

Because of Scriptures such as the above, I have never owned a single gun or rifle of any kind during my entire life. I simply do not like them, and I am in fact somewhat nervous around them. You may not agree, but I sense evil in them. I strive to live a very peaceful life with everyone, as the Apostle Paul admonishes us to do in the previous verse, and I trust God for my protection. To date, He has never failed me one single time. Your faith may run differently from mine.

But getting back to Ukraine, what irks me is the fact that the Western Bloc is painting Vladimir Putin as the aggressor, while purposely ignoring the fact that for thirty years, the U.S.A. and its NATO cohorts have been slowly and aggressively encroaching closer and closer to Russia's borders. So Putin's Russia is NOT the only aggressor in this case. There is blame on BOTH sides of the fence. The truth of the matter is that Russia is a part of Europe, and this is a European affair. As such, I am of the opinion that the United States of America needs to stay out of it. That's precisely one of the problems which I've mentioned before in other articles. It seems that America has declared itself the policeman of the world. Just like the neighborhood gossiper, it wants to stick its nose in everyone else's business. Of course, this goes back to what I said earlier regarding the U.S.'s hegemonic ideology.

Please go to part two for the continuation of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

If You Poke a Bear Long Enough - Part 2

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Government Manipulation Of Public Opinion, George W. Bush Administration And Iraq War, Imaginary WMD And Mushroom Clouds, Freedom And Democracy Lie, "There Is Always A Good Reason To Go To War" Lie, America's Never-Ending List Of Enemies And Wars, The World Is A Chessboard For Superpowers, Safe Wars: America's Wars Are Never On American Soil, Putin Picked An Opportune Time To Invade Ukraine, The Simultaneous Problem In Taiwan And Ukraine: Was It By Intentional Design?, America's Limited Power In The World, Biden Is An Empty Wind, Economic Sanctions Won't Work With Putin, Putin Knows Biden Is Weak, Russia Has The Military And Geographical Advantage, Deceptive Fallacy Of Bush's "Coalition Of The Willing", The Whole World Did Not Support America's Invasion Of Iraq, The USA Pushed For War In Ukraine, Europe Does Not Want Another War On Its Soil, Blame Being Cast Everywhere, NATO Realizes It Is No Match For Russia, Biden Has Limited Military Assets In NATO Members, Obnoxious America Pressures Other Nations, Putin Realized He Had To Act Now Before Ukraine Was Admitted To NATO, I Have Anticipated Russia Pushing Back For 24 Years, Quotes From My Articles "Communism: Is the Dead Beast Really Dead?" And "Communism: The Raging Bear out of Control!", Is He President Autocrat Or Dictator?, I Warned About Communist Vladimir Putin Years Ago, Communism In Russia Is Not Dead, Poland, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania And Bulgaria Join NATO Alliance, The World's Mentality: Attack Your Enemy While They Are Weak, Once America Is Let In The Door It's Hard To Get Her To Leave

Continuing our discussion from part one, the second point I

wish to make is the following. As we've already seen, before secular governments engage in an action which they know may be unpopular with their constituents, they will first take time to soften up the people, and use their spin doctors to psychologically manipulate them, so that in the end, they will accept the government's action as being both rational and necessary. This sly, subtle process can take days, weeks, months and even years, as public opinion is slowly altered. People don't even realize that they are being conditioned to think a certain way. We have seen it so many times before; so why not this time as well with regards to Russia and Ukraine?

For example, with the unjustified war in Iraq, many of you will recall how the Bush administration invented imaginary tales of WMD and mushroom clouds over America, in order to frighten the American public into accepting that awful war. At the same time, they also demonized Saddam Hussein -- who was indeed a cruel tyrant and monster according to some accounts -- but he was never a real threat to the United States of America. His SCUD missiles could barely reach the nation of Israel, and they were very inaccurate. But, you see, as far as governments are concerned, it does not matter if what they are saying is true or not. All that matters is whether or not their words are having the effect that they want on the general populace. Don't forget that.

Another one of Uncle Sam's lies was that they insisted that they only wanted to bring freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people. "Oh, the Iraqis will greet our troops with flowers", they said, "because they are so desperate for what we have here in America." Well, here we are in 2022, and there is still no real democracy in Iraq, and government corruption there runs as deep as ever. By the way, as I mention in my four-part exposé called "Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy", America's incursion there destroyed the country in more ways than one, and left at least hundreds of thousands of people dead in the process. Please consider reading it.

One of the big lies of warmongering nations is that there is always a good reason to go to war. If there isn't a reason, well, then just make one up! Don't you find it strange that there is always an enemy lurking somewhere which needs to be dealt with and put in their place? If you doubt that this is so, just look at America's war history over the past seventy years. I think you will become convinced. God blesses the peacemakers, and NOT the warmongers! One of the other very big lies is "Oh, we're only there to help those poor people."

I say, "Hogwash!" There is ALWAYS an ulterior motive, and it is NOT the reason that they are promoting to the public.

Let's be frank and speak the truth here. Major powers and superpowers -- such as the U.S.A., China and Russia -- don't really care about the welfare of people of other nations. On the surface they may PRETEND that they do, but the cold fact of the matter is that those other nations are just pawns on the chessboard, which can be used in an advantageous manner by a major world power to expand their sphere of influence, whether politically, financially, militarily or ideologically. That is it. Don't believe anything else, because it is all just lies, meant for public consumption by the dumb sheep. As I've already made rather clear, that is precisely what we see happening in eastern Europe right now.

Another stinging truth regarding the current war in Ukraine, is that from the American government's perspective, it is a safe war. Why? Because it is NOT occurring on American soil. America chooses its wars very carefully. Do you not find it strange that they always seem to happen somewhere else, and usually thousands of miles away? You don't think that is by intentional design?

One thing I will say is this. I don't think that Putin could have picked a better time to conduct an invasion of Ukraine; and he knows it! Just think about it for a moment. The world has been ravaged by COVID-19 for almost two years now. As a result, national economies have been weakened. Supply chain shortages are still occurring and may possibly get even worse. There is growing concern with regards to climate change. Then, of course, there is American president Joe Biden's very poor performance. His numbers in the polls -- and those of his vice president, Kamala Harris -- are very low. Many Americans continue to struggle financially. Then there is the botched withdrawal from Afghanistan.

As if that isn't already enough, there's preoccupation with the serious problem that's brewing between China and Taiwan. The Biden administration cannot possibly deal with both of these problems -- Taiwan and Ukraine -- at the same time in a very effective manner. It has to be one or the other. In fact, given the close ties that have been developing between Russia and China in recent years, I wouldn't be surprised if Russia and China purposely planned to have the Taiwan and Ukraine problems surface at the same time. Who knows. But if Putin pulls off grabbing Ukraine with minor damage to himself

and his nation, China will surely try to grab Taiwan in the near future as well.

To be quite honest, my friends, I don't think that the U.S.A. could have stopped Vladimir Putin from invading Ukraine, any more than it will be able to prevent China from invading the island of Taiwan. America likes to project an image of both strength and power, but the truth is, there is only so much that it can do in the world. It does NOT control the world.

To add to our picture, Joe Biden is old, and may not even be mentally or physically fit to continue serving as America's president for the current term, much less for a second term. It is quite possible that he will be a one-term president. If Trump re-enters the picture, as is highly anticipated, it is almost a sure bet that Joe Biden will be history, even if he does choose to run for a second term. But the point is, President Biden has shown weakness. I see it each time that I read the daily news. When I paused to think about him the other day, the words that entered my mind were "empty wind", and "a cloud without rain". These thoughts of mine are actually based on a few Scriptures. Consider the following:

"Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain."

Proverbs 25:14, KJV

"These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever."

2 Peter 2:17, KJV

"These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots;"

Jude 1:12, KJV

So what do I mean when I say that Joe Biden is an empty wind and a cloud without rain? Well, it really isn't too hard to figure out. Consider the facts on the ground. While Vladimir Putin was slowly building and organizing his military forces and surrounding Ukraine on three sides, what was Biden doing during that time? Threatening Russia with harsh sanctions, as he has continued to do. So while Putin was getting ready to bash Ukraine with a very big stick, Biden was threatening

him with some light slaps on the wrist. Putin surely must have laughed. Do you honestly believe he is worried about economic sanctions? I doubt it.

Now, I am not saying that economic sanctions are not a good way to apply pressure to another country that is not doing what you want. However, anyone who knows Putin's background, and who has carefully watched him over the past two decades, knows that economic sanctions are NOT going to deter Putin from his ultimate goals, whatever they happen to be. Just the other day, I read one particular news report where Biden claimed that Vladimir Putin's ultimate goal is to restore the previous glory of the Soviet Union. Maybe it is true, or maybe it is not true. At the very least, it is a good piece of psychological manipulation to get the American public to support whatever comes next. And that is the big question, isn't it? But first things first. It's only been a few days, so let's see what happens in Ukraine.

But as I said, U.S. President Joe Biden is an empty wind, and a cloud without rain, and Vladimir Putin most certainly knows it. He realizes that Biden is weak, and is not cut out for the job. Putin also knows that Biden will not risk starting World War III by directly engaging with Russian troops. In fact, as you may have read yourself, different news sources quoted the president as saying this on one or more occasions. As far as I can tell, everything that Biden is saying and doing is merely bravado which is purposely designed for consumption by the American public. It is to make Mr. Biden appear decisive and strong, but Vladimir Putin sees right through it.

That is why Putin chose to attack. He knows that he has the advantage in more than one way. Not only does he have the geographical advantage, but as even a number of news outlets have candidly stated, he has the military advantage as well. Personally, I honestly don't know how many troops Russia now has surrounding Ukraine. As I noted earlier, we simply cannot trust everything that the mainstream media, or the government for that matter, tells us. With each news report, the number of Russian troops continued to grow. The last number I saw was 190,000. In contrast, Biden and NATO talk about sending a few hundred troops here, or a few thousand troops there. But what is that compared to the massive war machine which Putin possesses and has assembled?

So again, Joe Biden is huffing and puffing, but he is just an empty wind whose threats Mr. Putin has chosen to ignore.

What is the point of even sending said troops, if you have already informed your enemy that you have no intentions of even engaging him? Is President Biden merely sending them in an advisory role? Good question.

Another point which is worth mentioning concerns America's NATO allies. You know, if a person has been really observant over the past few decades as America has engaged in its wars around the world, one thing he will notice is that it always takes the lead, as I mentioned earlier regarding the United States assigning itself the position of "policeman of the world". Then what happens next? It pokes, prods and pressures other nations until they finally decide to contribute a small number of troops, or military hardware, or something else, just to get the aggressive American government off their back.

Folks, I am not exaggerating here. You may recall that twenty years ago, when US President George W. Bush foolishly engaged in the ill-conceived invasion of, war in, and occupation of, Iraq, he coined the phrase "coalition of the willing". What I find odd about this is the fact that many of us never quite understood exactly who was a part of this coalition. Myself, I always questioned it and wondered about it. It was kind of a nebulous, ambiguous thing. I now believe that it was more than likely intentionally designed that way, and I will tell you why in just a minute. According to my online research, the "coalition of the willing" consisted of those "countries who supported, militarily or politically, the 2003 invasion of Iraq and subsequent military presence in post-invasion Iraq."

But here comes the clincher. According to Wikipedia, Bush's "coalition of the willing" consisted of 46-48 nations. BUT, of those four dozen countries, only three of them -- that is, the United Kingdom, Australia and Poland -- actually contributed troops to the actual invasion force. That was it, my friends. Just three countries out of a supposed 46 to 48 nations. What does that tell you? Do I need to spell it out for you? Wikipedia also states that "An additional 37 countries provided some number of troops to support military operations after the invasion was complete." Wikipedia also states that in 2008 it was discovered that the lists of the coalition members had been tampered with. Some lists had even been removed from the record.

So what is my point in sharing this particular information with you? It is to expose the lies and deception which are

employed by your own government, in order to convince you of something which is not necessarily true. In this case, we know -- or at least should know -- that the administration of George W. Bush was intent on convincing the American people that the whole world supported America's illegal invasion of Iraq, for the purposes of so-called "regime change". It just was not so! I believe that it is more accurate to state that other nations were pressured and dragged along, in order to try to conceal the fact that this was primarily America's war -- and no one else's -- from beginning to end. In fact, you may possibly recall that at that time, the idea was promoted that any American who did not support the war in Iraq was being unpatriotic. Not so!

Now fast forward almost twenty years to 2022, and we now see something similar happening with regards to NATO and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. As I made clear earlier, it is America, and no one else, who pushed for this war. The incursion into Ukraine is in reality a clash between the American sphere of influence, and the Russian sphere of influence. If there is one thing of which I am certain, it is that Europe does NOT want another war on its soil. The European members of NATO do NOT want another war on European soil. They have been through enough wars already, and they've suffered enough as a direct result of it. They would rather live in peace with Russia.

Now that Vladimir Putin has actually invaded Ukraine, fingers have begun pointing everywhere, and blame is being cast. For his part, President Biden is being blamed for being too weak, and for not taking a stronger approach to deter Mr. Putin. Of course, as I have already mentioned, Vladimir Putin is being accused of being the aggressor who has broken international law. As for Europe's NATO members, they are being accused of not doing their part and for being too slow to build up their military assets after the Soviet Union fell. Their reluctance continues to this day. As I explained earlier, despite all of the huffing and puffing, there is not a lot of willingness to commit large numbers of troops to the nations which border Russia, or which are located not far from it. With regards to Ukraine, it is not even a member of NATO yet. This point does not work in its favor, obviously.

According to some reports I have read, part of the reluctance is due to the fact that said nations recognize that to engage Russia is not only an exercise in futility, but even suicidal. In other words, they acknowledge that they are no match for Russian military might. Neither do they want war on their own

soil. It's just that simple. I also find it very interesting that some war analysts are suggesting that the reason why Mr. Biden has repeatedly stated that he will not engage American troops with Russian forces in Ukraine, is because he too knows that NATO forces in Europe are not sufficiently prepared or equipped for such engagement. Biden does not have sufficient European support. So again, this is America's war; but as has occurred before, it is NOT being fought on American soil. As I explained earlier, this is why she is always more willing to start another war somewhere in the world.

As I mentioned to you earlier, you need to understand that the U.S.A. can be very obnoxious. She has a way of bullying and pressuring other countries, until they finally do what she wants. She is one mean lady who will resort to whatever schemes are necessary in order to get what she wants. This can include, but is not limited to, fomenting civil unrest, engaging in economic embargoes, enticing nations through the sale of weapons of war, offering financial assistance, etc. Once America gets her foot in the door, watch out! She will not let up! "Oh please let us put a few of our bases in your country. Let us provide you with a few missile launchers to protect yourselves against those nasty Commies. Would you be willing to accept some more troops?" And on and on she goes.

Let us return to the issue of what prompted Vladimir Putin to invade Ukraine a few days ago. As we have already discussed, one of Putin's unbending demands was that Ukraine would never be allowed to become a member of NATO. But the U.S.A. and her NATO partners insisted that this was a non-negotiable demand. But to try to assuage Putin's fears, they stated that even if were to occur, it was still years away from becoming reality. Well, obviously, Putin realized that he could NOT possibly take that chance. He could NOT have NATO forces right at his front door. He HAD to act, and he had to act NOW, before it became too late. As I explained earlier, Mr. Putin was slowly forced into his current position by the United States and its allies over the past three decades. And then he took action.

Quite frankly, and personally, I for one am NOT surprised in the least. In fact, while I didn't know at the time exactly how it would eventually play out, in conducting a review of all of my previous articles and series, I discovered that I have been anticipating the current East-West clash for at least twenty-four years now. As proof of this, consider what I wrote in part one of my 1998 article entitled "Communism: Is the Dead Beast Really Dead?":

----- Begin 1998 Quote -----

"However, there is a very real danger lurking here. If the West continues to isolate Russia, as it has been doing by way of the eastward expansion of the NATO countries, which both Russia and China have strongly opposed, or by cutting off Russia's access to her Arab allies, this could result in some very dire consequences. If in months and years ahead, Russia were to return to full-fledged Communism, and if her newly-blossoming relationship with some of the Arab nations were to be placed in jeopardy, I can very well imagine a desperate Communist Russia -- which is still in possession of her nuclear arms by the way -- trying to make a move to protect her remaining territory, and perhaps to protect her interests in the Middle East as well."

----- End 1998 Quote -----

So, as you can see, at least twenty-four years ago, I was already drawn to the serious trouble that was then brewing in the former Eastern Bloc nations, and being instigated by the United States of America and her NATO allies. Folks, please understand that you do not need to be any kind of a prophet to see these things. All you have to do is to pay attention to the news, and see what each side is saying and doing. Then you have to pray and ask God for His Wisdom and Discernment in order to properly understand the matter. You need to learn to see through all of the psychological manipulation, and the lies which are constantly being spun by the spin doctors, on BOTH sides of the fence, and even across oceans.

In my 2016 update to my 1998 article "Communism: Is the Dead Beast Really Dead?", in part two, I likewise warn my readers to beware of Russian dictator Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin. While due to political correctness, the world may refer to Vladimir Putin as the "president" of Russia, everyone with an understanding of such matters recognizes that he is in fact an outright dictator, just as Saddam Hussein was referred to as a "president", while he too was a cruel and tyrannical dictator. Another politically correct word which much of the world likes to use for people such as Putin is "autocrat".

My friends, why can't they just call a spade a spade? In my view, the common use of such words as a description of such dictatorial leaders is a compromise of the truth, to say the least. It is a vast web of lies and intentional deception. In

this present evil world, one can't remain in power for almost twenty-four years -- as Putin has most certainly done since first rising to power within the KGB -- without relying upon calculated, dictatorial maneuvers. Consider the following quote from the aforementioned article where I warn my readers to keep an eye on Putin. And by the way, not only did Putin outlast Donald Trump too, but I would not be the least bit surprised if when all is said and done, Putin outlasts U.S. president, Joe Biden, as well:

----- Begin 1998 Quote -----

"As I explain in the article entitled "Alexander Lebed and the Year 2,000 Russian Presidential Race", neither Alexander Lebed, nor Gannady Zyuganov, won the Russian election that year. In fact, after Boris Yeltsin chose Vladimir Putin as his final Prime Minister in August of 1999, Putin went on to claim the top prize as Russia's new president in 2000. Not only that, but since that time, Putin has served as either the nation's President or Prime Minister, uninterrupted. He has outlasted the last three American presidents -- Clinton, Bush And Obama -- and he is still going rather strong.

But what I really want to say to you is this: I am still not very convinced that Russian Communism is totally dead. In fact, I believe that it is still very much alive and well in the embodiment of current Russian president Vladimir Putin. Mr. Putin's entire demeanor -- that is, the way in which he runs his government with tight control and such a firm hand -- is Communist-styled governing through and through. In that regard, I have to agree with incoming President Donald Trump. Putin is a very strong leader who does not show any weakness. Everyone knows that he is the man in control, regardless of who may hold other government positions around him.

As I have stated before, whatever you do, don't be deceived by Vladimir Putin. He is a very shrewd man. He may not wear a pin bearing a hammer and sickle on his lapel, but the man is a Communist, I do believe. You don't come out of the KGB not being a Communist. As I also point out in "Alexander Lebed and the Year 2,000 Russian Presidential Race", what you may also find interesting is the fact that to this day, the Communist Party is the second largest political party in the Russian Federation, behind the United Russia Party. Not only that, but in every presidential election which has been held in the Russian Federation, a Communist Party candidate has always finished in second place. So, as you can see, this is

even more proof that Russian Communism is definitely not dead by any means.

At any rate, it will be very interesting to see exactly what kind of a relationship Vladimir Putin and President-elect Trump develop following the January 20, 2016 inauguration in the United States. As I also mention in the aforementioned article, Putin and Trump are both already beating their big chests, and talking about a new arms race. They are clearly not off to a good start. However, I suspect that Putin sees through all of the garbage that President Obama is throwing in Putin's direction. Thus, Putin is just waiting with a great deal of patience, until President-elect Trump assumes the office of the presidency in three weeks' time. I for one will be watching this pair closely. With their personalities and egos, it ought to be quite a ride."

----- End 1998 Quote -----

Continuing our discussion, in part one of my other article from the year 1998 entitled "Communism: The Raging Bear Out of Control!", I again express my concern with NATO expansion towards Russia's borders. It is a bit lengthy, but consider what I wrote back then, and how it has in fact now become reality:

----- Begin 1998 Quote -----

This brings us to the final point concerning the angry bear which protects its young. What is one of Russia's, and even China's, chief concerns right now? It is the expansion of the sixteen-member NATO alliance into three former Soviet Bloc nations. Because of the significant political and economic reforms they have made since the supposed fall of Communism in 1989, the Central European countries of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were officially invited to join the NATO alliance during a summit held in Madrid, Spain in July of 1997. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported the following at that time:

----- Begin Quote -----

"Political leaders in Poland and Hungary are expressing pleasure at news from Madrid that NATO leaders reached a consensus today on inviting their nations, along with the Czech Republic, to begin accession talks. News reports say members of Hungary's Parliament broke into cheers when the

news came during question time. In Warsaw, Polish Prime Minister Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz told reporters that today "has a good chance of going down in history as the end of the order established at Yalta." The World War II allied powers, including the Soviet Union, divided Europe into spheres of influence in 1945 at a meeting at Yalta. In Prague, Czech Foreign Minister Josef Zieleniec also mentioned the passing of Yalta as well the 1938 Munich agreement after which Czechoslovakia first lost borderlands and then was absorbed by Nazi Germany. Zieleniec called the invitation from NATO one of the most important developments in the Czech Republic since the fall of communism."

----- End Quote -----

If additional reforms continue on schedule, these three countries are expected to become regular members of the NATO alliance by April of 1999, at which time NATO will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. However, this is only the tip of the iceberg, as the United States of America and her NATO partners have not tried to hide the fact that this is only the first wave of invitations. Others are eventually expected to be extended to the Baltic countries -- Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania -- to Romania, as well as to other Central and East European nations as they continue to strive to meet the various requirements set by the NATO alliance. It is for good reason then that Russia and China both are quite concerned about this issue of NATO expansion. Today, more than eighteen years after I wrote the original version of this article, the situation has only grown worse.

However, this is still not the end of the story concerning Western expansionism. It is much more complicated than that. As if this action by NATO wasn't already enough to provoke and anger the Russian bear, consider that barely one week after the NATO invitation was extended, the European Union Commission also began its negotiations for the inclusion of these same three countries, as well as Estonia and Slovenia into the fifteen-member European Union. While this process will certainly involve overcoming some serious problems, this integration would eventually result in an even stronger more unified Europe, and a weaker and more isolated Russia. Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty also reported the following in July of 1997:

----- Begin Quote -----

"After months of study and political debate, the European Commission called today for opening negotiations to admit five Central and East European countries: Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia and Slovenia. But, it turned back applications from five other countries, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria, and in the harshest words of all, Slovakia. Jacques Santer, Commission President, presented the decision to the European Parliament today in Strasbourg in a report titled: "Agenda 2000."

----- End Quote -----

If all goes well, it is expected that these five countries will become a part of the European Union by the year 2002; and as with the NATO expansion plans, other currently non-participating nations are expected to follow. Thus we see that the Russian bear is indeed being provoked in a very real sense. It is because of all of these factors that I can't help but wonder if the current heated situation in Kosovo might not involve much more than what appears on the surface.

Let me ask you something. If you had a life-long opponent, who suddenly grew ill, or who became distracted by personal problems, wouldn't you try to take advantage of his weakened condition in order to try to gain some victory over that opponent? Now, let us be honest for a moment. If you were a shrewd, battle-savvy opponent, you most certainly would. However, due to political correctness and world opinion, you would have to make sure that you did it in such a way that it was acceptable to the majority of your friends. You would have to transform your subtle plans to conquer and to expand into a noble venture, such as in the defense of human rights for example; and there we have the Kosovo situation.

How many times before have we seen the United States of America intervene militarily in a certain country for the stated purpose of protecting the human rights of the citizens of that country? The problem is, once the Americans do go in, it seems that they have a very difficult time leaving after that. Today, as I update this article at the end of 2016, we can look back in retrospect. Just take a look at Iraq. How many long years has the United States government, along with its military, been engaged in that war-torn nation? Many will say too long, and I most certainly agree.

Of course, once Uncle Sam gets his foot in the door, next

come all of the fancy little trinkets and the nice gifts, the military bases and the arms sales, and the trade agreements of Western industrialized society, in order to entice and to appease the natives so that the temporary visitors can stay permanently in one way or another. Thus begins their control, as well as the gradual deterioration of a society to Western standards; including the name brand tennis shoes, the famous American sodas, and the hard rock music to pollute the minds of the youth, and to cause them to rebel against their very own parents. A simple, rural life is traded for a selfish, materialistic, and quite often ungodly lifestyle.

----- End of 1998 Quote -----

Please go to part three for the conclusion of this series.

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>

If You Poke a Bear Long Enough - Part 3

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Each New NATO Entry Has Been A Strong Provocation For Russia, NATO Made Its Moves When Russia Was Weak Following Soviet Era, I Question How Much Longer Russia Will Sit Idly By While NATO Steals Her Bear Cubs, Does Putin Want To Restore The Glory Of The Soviet Union?, 2016: Putin Remains Powerful And Popular, A New Cold War Between Russia And NATO Alliance, Russia Begins Reasserting Itself, Real Motive Behind The War In Yugoslavia, The Russian Bear Is Being Forced Into A Corner Due To NATO's Expansion, Russia And China Improving Relations, Russia And China's Vision For A Multi-Polar World, My Consistent Belief In Coming War Between Russia And NATO, Vladimir Putin Is Very Intelligent Shrewd Sly Calculating And Deceptive, Putin Has Been Extremely Patient With NATO, Putin Was Not The Initial Aggressor In Ukraine War, Beware Of Deceptive War Propaganda, I'm Not A Communist Sympathizer And Don't Support Russia Or

Continuing our discussion from part two, let us take a look at some more quotes from my 1998 article entitled "Communism: The Raging Bear Out of Control!". Not only do I continue to express my concern regarding NATO expansion towards Russia's borders, but I also consider the real possibility that war could eventually break out between Russia and the Western Bloc nations -- which includes the United States of America -- due to NATO's aggressive expansion towards the borders of Russia. Well, folks, here it is, 2022, and it has finally happened. God help us all!

----- Begin 1998 Quote -----

"As stated above, Russia is strongly opposed to military intervention [in Kosovo] by the United States and her NATO allies, and for good reason. This would be similar to Russia intervening militarily in Mexico in order to quell problems there. Would the government of the United States just idly stand by while this happened? Most certainly not! She would feel greatly threatened, and she would undoubtedly do something about it. Probably declare war! It is ludicrous then to expect Russia to remain quiet while the NATO forces plan air strikes on one of her neighbors not far from her western doorstep.

It is equally ridiculous to expect Russia to remain quiet while three of her other neighbors are integrated into the NATO alliance and the European Union, with others to follow after that. If you look on a map of Eastern Europe, you will quickly see that some of the five aforementioned countries are right up against Belarus and the Ukraine, while others are only separated from Russia by a country or two. That is how great this threat is to Russian security. In short, from the Russian perspective, these current moves by NATO and the European Union are very strong provocations, and I seriously doubt that they would have been made when Russia was a lot stronger.

But you see, Russia is in such internal turmoil right now, that as with the Palestinian issue, one can only wonder if she can really do more than offer verbal protest; and the NATO alliance knows this. But what if they are surprised? What if Mother Russia does something unexpected? What if the

Communists come to full power even sooner than I personally expect? And even if they don't, what if some of the renegade Russian forces decide to use some of their nuclear stockpile to enter the fray in Eastern Europe? This is the present danger; that either the Communists, or someone else inside of Russia, might do something to either try to stop the NATO countries from performing air strikes in Kosovo, or to keep a strongly American-influenced NATO from grabbing three more of Russia's western neighbors, who are all overjoyed at the prospect of becoming members of the NATO alliance.

Even if Mother Russia does nothing to stop the integration of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the NATO alliance and the European Union -- which I personally would find hard to believe -- it is even more difficult for me to accept that she would continue to idly stand by while the other remaining nations of Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Bulgaria and Slovakia are integrated into the Western sphere of influence. Look at a map. Just as Mexico lies right across the border from the United States Of America, this would place American power and influence right across the Russian border! Who would have ever dreamed of such a thing happening even ten years ago?

Continuing our discussion from part one, the Kosovo situation might only be the tip of the ice berg. It could explode into something much greater which could affect the plan for NATO and European Union expansion. It is a common practice that once a war or local conflict has begun, countries will take full advantage of the confusion, the communication blackouts, and the general mayhem which follows, in order to grab a little more than their share of the pie. If you ask me, it appears that a greater war is inevitable sooner or later; whether it is a result of the current Kosovo situation, or whether it is a result of Russia feeling so threatened, that she finally decides that she must do something in order to stop further Western expansionism.

No matter how you look at it, from the perspective of the American government -- which at that time meant the Clinton Administration -- having NATO forces entrenched in Kosovo, to protect human rights, of course, would be a very smart move for the West. Perhaps they are just talking about air strikes now, but it could very well evolve into ground troops in the near future. In other words, as NATO and the European Union continue to push eastward, a war with Russia becomes more likely; so being positioned in Kosovo would be a good move strategically-speaking.

Again, I just can't see the Russian bear sitting idly by for much longer, while all of her former cubs are stolen from her one by one. A bear just doesn't act that way. It becomes very upset, and very dangerous, and it is compelled to protect its young. I suspect that Russia will try to come to the aid of her bear cubs. However, whether this development will occur under Yeltsin's leadership, or under Communist leadership, or under whoever is in power once all of the current confusion and turmoil has passed and the political dust has settled, I really don't know.

I just don't think that the Western powers will be able to keep provoking the Russian bear forever. Now, in 2016, and eighteen years after I first wrote this article, we see that Russia has finally begun to push back, despite receiving a lot of heavy condemnation from the West. Quite frankly, I find such condemnation very hypocritical, in light of all the things that the United States, NATO and the European powers did in the first place to provoke Russia to retaliate. First was when Russia grabbed back Crimea from Ukraine in 2014. Now Russia is involved in helping Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad take back his country in a very bloody, long, drawn-out civil war, in which hundreds of thousands have already died or been negatively affected in some other way. Who knows what will come next.

Right now, Russia could use a "good" war to unite her people. The leadership in Moscow -- meaning Boris Yeltsin -- needs something to stop the growing tide of dissatisfaction which is a result of the unpopular politics being foisted upon the Russian people. For me personally, it is easy to see how the growing threat of Western expansionism into Eastern Europe could very well be the battle cry. Maybe Boris Yeltsin might be too weak to do such a thing, but the Communist hard-liners surely are not. In fact, they have already accused Yeltsin of being responsible for Russia's fall from greatness. They could just as easily accuse him of allowing Mother Russia to become isolated from the world because of his inability to take the necessary aggressive steps to stop NATO and European Union expansion to their very doorstep. But the question is, will they?

Regardless of how we choose to look at current developments in Eastern Europe, it seems that they could result in some very dire consequences at some point in the future, unless the United States and NATO back down from their aggression,

which is highly unlikely. As I said earlier, they want to take advantage of Russia's current weakened state as much as they can.

In conclusion, allow me to state that I am by no means any kind of a Prophet. Likewise, I am not even a professional political analyst. I honestly do not know with one hundred per cent certainty what is going to happen in Russia; or as a result of the situation in Kosovo; or as a result of NATO and European Union expansionism. As I have done in my other articles regarding Russia, I have merely expressed my views concerning these matters, and the impressions I have of what may happen in the future. Whether or not I am right, or even close to being accurate, time will certainly tell."

----- End 1998 Quote -----

At the very end of that same 1998 article, I include a short 2016 update where I mention Vladimir Putin's political power, and his popularity with the Russian people. The reason why this particular quote is important, is because in the final sentence, I mention Putin's desire to restore Russia to its former "glory days" during the era of the Soviet Union. As you may recall from part two of this series, this is exactly what President Biden is now accusing Putin of attempting to do, with his invasion of Ukraine. Consider the following:

----- Begin 2016 Quote -----

"While a full-blown Communist revolution hasn't occurred in the Russian Federation since I first authored this article in 1998, and while Gannady Zyuganov has never been able to become the actual president of Russia via a real democratic election -- if such an untainted election can really even happen in Russia -- as I point out in a few other articles in which I discuss the situation inside of Russia, I still believe that the authoritarian, tight-fisted government that is currently run by President Vladimir Putin amounts to pretty much the same thing. Mr. Putin is very powerful; and even though he has been in power for sixteen years now, he still remains extremely popular, due in part to the fact that he has been restoring the glory of Russia of old, as it was under its former Communist bosses."

----- End 2016 Quote -----

On December 31, 2016, I added an update to my 1998 article

"Alexander Lebed and the Year 2000 Russian Presidential Race". In that update, I again mention how the expansion of NATO into Eastern Bloc nations was provoking Russia, and that it could eventually lead to serious consequences, as you can see by the following quoted material:

----- Begin 2016 Quote -----

"In fact, today, more than eighteen years after I wrote the original version of this current article [meaning "Alexander Lebed and the Year 2000 Russian Presidential Race"], many Americans are aware of the fact that a new Cold War has already basically begun. While some of my fellow Christians and Americans may not agree with my position, I am firmly convinced that it is in large part because of aggressive behavior by the United States and NATO that this new Cold War has been initiated. I have mentioned before that it is partly due to the fact that both entities took advantage of the situation while Russia was down and out economically, and maybe militarily too, by encroaching on the Russian Federation's westernmost borders, that this new Russian aggression has developed.

In my view, it was very foolish for these powers to provoke the Russian bear by expanding NATO, by placing new missile batteries in both Poland and Romania, not to mention what is also occurring in the Baltic States with ramped-up defense spending, and by doing other things which they have done in recent years. It is only natural that the Russians would feel threatened, and thus have taken certain steps to re-establish their dominance in the region; such as taking back Crimea in 2014 from Ukraine, and becoming directly engaged in the war in Syria."

----- End 2016 Quote -----

In my 1999 article entitled "Battle of Gog and Magog and the War in Yugoslavia!", I again expose the real reason why the United States of America was meddling in European affairs, when it mercilessly bombarded Yugoslavia with almost 1,000 warplanes for a period of seventy-eight days. The truth is not what the puppet masters led many people to believe. Consider this quote from that article:

----- Begin 1999 Quote -----

"This brings us to a very interesting point. While these two

wars may at first seem to be totally unrelated, this is certainly not the case. As I have stated to some of my Christian friends before, I believe that if we clear away the smokescreen of helping the Muslim Kosovar Albanians, just as we helped the Muslims in Bosnia, and the Muslim Kurds in Iraq, we can begin to see that the current war in Yugoslavia is really a full-scale effort by the Clinton Administration to expand America's, and thus NATO's, sphere of influence, by pushing back and isolating Russia even further. Isn't this precisely why NATO was formed fifty years ago; that is, to offer an umbrella of protection to the European states from the expanding Communist giant? By brutally grabbing Yugoslavia through the current war, the United States of America hopes to acquire yet another beachhead, another staging area, another protectorate nation, another puppet nation, close to the Russian border.

As I have mentioned to some of my readers in private email, imagine if you live in the city of Chicago, and the Russians are dropping cruise missiles in Washington, D.C.. That gives you a rough idea of how close American warplanes are to the Russian border, meaning of course, to Ukraine. The only thing which separates Belgrade from Ukraine, is the country of Romania; and this is one of the reasons why the Russian government is currently very nervous, very upset, and has been issuing some strong, but still reserved, warnings to the United States and to NATO. Another reason for their anger is their ethnic ties to the Yugoslavian people. You see, the people of Russia, Belarus and Yugoslavia are all of Slavic origin. In fact, I was just reading the other day how, as a result of this war, the government of Yugoslavia has just decided to accept Russia's invitation to join a loose Slavic commonwealth with Russia and Belarus."

----- End 1999 Quote -----

Turning to a third of my articles which was first written and published in 1999 entitled "Fulfilled Prophecy: The Beginning of Sorrows", we discover that towards the end of part one, I once again clearly express my concern regarding the U.S.A.'s and NATO's expansion into the countries of eastern Europe. Not only do I warn how the Russian bear is being forced into a corner and will eventually fight back, but I also mention how the West's aggressive tactics are forcing the Russians and the Chinese to warm up to each other. Last of all, in the closing paragraph of this same part of the series, I likewise warn how NATO's policy of expansionism may one day result in

"outright military conflict with the United States of America, and other NATO nations". Consider these quotes:

----- Begin 1999 Quote -----

"Despite the current, and undoubtedly temporary, calm between India and Pakistan, the move by the American administration to align itself with India is not being welcomed by Russia or by China; both of which had already become alarmed due to the recent, merciless seventy-eight day aerial bombardment of the sovereign nation of Yugoslavia by American-led NATO forces; a bombardment which really has resolved absolutely nothing. The Russian bear is being forced more and more into the corner as American and NATO expansion continues to move ever eastward towards the Russian borders; but it will only be permitted to move so far before the Russians decide that enough is enough. May I suggest that you read "Communism: Is The Dead Beast Really Dead?" and "Communism: The Raging Bear Out Of Control" for a more in-depth look at this situation.

As a result of American and NATO expansionist policies, and the current trend to augment the number of nations included in the economic bloc of the European Union, as is witnessed by Turkey's current consideration for the powerful group, as of late, Russia and China have been warming up to each other; and have been emphasizing the idea of a multi-polar world; and not one which is dominated only by the United States of America."

.....

In light of the Belgrade bombardment, it also seems quite possible that, with some work, Ukraine may also rejoin this union sometime in the future. This would effectively block the United States as well as NATO from expanding any further eastward. While the Russians are greatly concerned about the recent NATO incursion into Yugoslavia, EU expansion, and the American double-cross on Pakistan, due to their own political and economic problems, at this current time, besides forging closer ties with China, Belarus, Ukraine, and other of her neighbors, there doesn't appear to be much more that Russia can do concerning the situation, short of outright military conflict with the United States of America, and other NATO nations; and that doesn't appear to be possible for the time being, although Mr. Yeltsin would have the West to believe otherwise.

----- End 1999 Quote -----

Moving on in our discussion, in part two of my 2006 series entitled "Lying Wonders of Our Age!" I very briefly mention the fact that due to NATO's expansion into former Eastern Bloc countries, Russia and China have been warming up to each other. That process has continued to this very day. In fact, while other nations have outright condemned Russia for its sudden invasion of Ukraine, China has not only refrained from doing so, but has in fact expressed its belief that Russia has legitimate security concerns, thus seemingly suggesting that Putin's actions are justified. Consider this short quote from the aforementioned article:

----- Begin 2006 Quote -----

". . . due to NATO's expansion into former East Bloc countries, and the U.S.-led bombing of Yugoslavia, Russia and China have been warming up to each other in a diplomatic sense."

----- End 2006 Quote -----

Towards the very end of part two of my 2001 article entitled "Slobodan Milosevic: A United Nations Experiment?", where I discuss the breakup of Yugoslavia, I again mention the West's true motivation for imprisoning Slobodan Milosevic, and how that by splitting up Yugoslavia into smaller entities, it was just another step in the West's goal to expand their sphere of influence into formerly Russian-influenced territory. As you can see, I again warn that Russia is not going to be happy with this development, and the bear may one day growl back, as has now occurred. Consider this short quote:

----- Begin 2001 Quote -----

"Is this what is going to happen? Time will certainly tell; but if it does, it will make it all the easier for the USA, and NATO, to add the smaller pieces to their ideological, military, political, and economic sphere of influence; and you can bet that Russia will not be too happy about it! The Russian bear may growl one of these days yet!"

----- End 2001 Quote -----

I imagine that by now, some of you may possibly be tired of reading all of these quotes. I know that they sound a bit

repetitive. However, by sharing all of the previous quotes with you from some of my older articles, which are in fact twenty-four years old, it is my hope that you have come to fully realize a number of things:

1. Since 1998, I have been quite consistent in my personal belief that sooner or later, there was going to be a serious clash between the Russian Federation and the United States and its NATO allies, as a result of NATO's slow but constant push towards Russia's borders. It was inevitable. Clearly, the handwriting on the wall has been there all along for anyone who has been willing to see it.

2. Contrary to the distorted, negative picture of Vladimir Putin which has been purposely promoted by the United States and its European allies in recent days, Putin is NOT just an unhinged, wild, crazy, demented leader who has lost his last ounce of sanity, and who has thus suddenly decided to invade Ukraine. Neither was he crazy when he grabbed Crimea in 2014. Putin is very intelligent, shrewd, very sly, calculating and deceptive. He knows exactly what he is doing. I am reminded of how Jesus described King Herod in the Gospel of Luke. Consider these verses:

"The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and TELL THAT FOX, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected."

Luke 13:31-32, KJV

3. Based on the actual events which have transpired over the past three decades, and particularly since Putin first rose to power in the year 2,000, I would have to conclude that if anything, Mr. Putin has been rather patient. Not only has he been patient, but he has clearly registered his complaints with NATO, and with the United Nations as well, only to have his complaints totally ignored.

4. Also contrary to the narrative which is currently being promoted by the West, while Putin is definitely acting in an aggressive manner now, as I have already made abundantly clear, he is most certainly not the initial aggressor with regards to this situation. The real aggressors are his very accusers who forced the Russian bear into a corner, so that he would be forced to finally react. As the title of this series states, "If you poke a bear long enough." So what

else could have been expected of Putin at this juncture in this long con geopolitical game?

5. Remember what Jesus said in the Gospels regarding wars and rumors of wars. There is already a lot of propaganda coming from many different directions. As I explained in part one of this series, you are going to be bombarded with all kinds of lies, false accusations, half-truths, and other misinformation by government propaganda agents, whose goal is to try to confuse you regarding the facts. Ask God for His Wisdom and Spiritual Discernment. Don't be so quick to drink the government-issued Kool-Aid.

6. I am not a Communist sympathizer. I do not in any way support the Russian Federation, or its leader, Vladimir Putin. As I said earlier, I support no national government or leader in this present world. My loyalty is only to the Kingdom of God. My goal with this series is simply to tell you what I personally perceive as being the truth, based on some three decades of observation. You can accept what I have to say, or reject it. It is your choice.

Update August 16, 2025:

As we all know by now, rather than fight to keep Bashar Assad in power, Vladimir Putin and Russia let him fall in 2024, and Islamic rebel forces have since taken control of the Syrian government under the so-called "presidency" of Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa. Personally, it boggles my mind to see how quickly the West has been to embrace Sharaa, who is well-known as a former member of both al-Qaeda in Iraq, the al-Nusra Front and Hay'at Tahrir al-Sha, which fought against the al-Assad regime. As for Bashar al-Assad and his family, they have been given asylum in Russia.

Regarding the war in Ukraine, only four days before I wrote this series in 2022, Russian forces invaded the easternmost oblasts of Ukraine. Sadly, that war has continued to rage ever since then, and has tragically resulted in hundreds of thousands of military casualties, and tens of thousands of Ukrainian civilian casualties as well. At this current time in August of 2025, Russian troops now occupy approximately 20% of Ukraine, and they've been making advances in recent weeks. Not even a day ago, U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in Anchorage, Alaska.

I have not yet read anything concerning the results of that

meeting. However, my sense is that Vladimir Putin continues to play with Trump in order to buy more time as the Russians continue their war efforts in eastern Ukraine. Furthermore, I am convinced that the war will not end until both Ukraine and Russia are ready and serious about wanting to end it. As for President Trump, in my view, he is simply powerless to stop the war, despite his usual bluster and boasting. Putin has endured sanctions and other harsh measures taken against his country for three years, and yet he remains standing.

With these thoughts, I will bring this article to a close. It is my hope that you've found it informative and enlightening, and I pray that it has been a blessing in your life as well. If you have an account with Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or with any other social network, I would really appreciate if you'd take the time to click or tap on the corresponding link that is found on this page. Thanks so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

For additional information and further study, you may want to refer to the list of reading resources below which were either mentioned in this article, or which contain topics which are related to this article. All of these articles are likewise located on the Bill's Bible Basics web server. To read these articles, simply click or tap on any link you see below.

Alexander Lebed and the Year 2,000 Russian Presidential Race
America: Land of the Free . . . and Hypocrisy!

Communism: Is the Dead Beast Really Dead?

Communism: The Raging Bear out of Control!

Killing and the Phinehas Priesthood

Killing, Murder and Military Duty

Obama, McCain and the Bush Legacy

One From Beyond: Hebrew of Hebrews

Owning Guns: What Saith the Scriptures?

Pilgrims and Strangers: Are You an Alien?

Revealer of Secrets and Sergei Stepashin

Saddam Hussein's Execution and the Euro Dollar War

To Vote, or Not to Vote

Who is the Real Terrorist?

Written by Bill Kochman

wordweaver777@gmail.com

<https://www.billkochman.com>