

Ritter: US-Russia Negotiations Dead /Leipzig Drone Attack False Flag

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#Glenn

Welcome back. We are joined today by Scott Ritter, a former U.S. Marine Corps intelligence officer, a former U.N. weapons inspector, and also a prolific author. Thank you for coming back on the program. We now see that Witkoff and Kushner appear to have finished off their new diplomatic initiative in Moscow and Kiev. Things are evidently not going well on the battlefield or behind the battlefield, but I did want to ask you, though, how you read this new diplomatic initiative. Is this serious, or is this an effort to position the U.S. as a mediator? How are you assessing this?

#Scott Ritter

Well, I mean, I do believe it's as serious as serious can. Glenn, come on. We're talking about the United States here under Donald Trump, so we can't even use the term serious. You want to get serious? Let's talk serious. They sent Witkoff to Moscow, I believe, as a precursor for the visit of Kushner and Witkoff. He was the CIA director. They sent the CIA director to Moscow to, you know, what? Create the pathway to peace? This is the man who literally leads an agency whose number one mission when it comes to Russia is to kill Russians. Okay, we need to be just dead-ass serious about what's going on here. The CIA is in the business of killing Russians, either directly or indirectly, most likely indirectly, or most favorably indirectly, empowering Ukrainians to send drones into Russia to destroy Russian infrastructure. The CIA is behind every single covert action that Ukraine takes.

When a Russian general gets assassinated, the CIA's fingerprints are on this. So how serious is the Trump administration about peace with Russia? You know, I believe they're serious when they do two things. One, publicly terminate the CIA's operations in support of Ukraine and tell Witkoff to stand down. And then fire all the little sons of bitches that have been running around playing paramilitary goon for the last five years. They have no place in the future CIA because their sole function is to kill Russians. You can't have people dedicated to the killing of Russians when you're

talking about peace with Russia. Two, tell the Europeans, we're done with supporting your nonsense. The next European nation that utters a pro-Ukrainian stance loses 100% American support. If America believes in peace, why do they facilitate the European path towards war with Russia?

#Glenn

This could be shut down instantly, but it's not.

#Scott Ritter

And then we talk about this whole economic package that he puts in there, the one that Kirill Dmitriev continues to embrace wholeheartedly. It's nothing more than a repackaging of the same crap that was sold to Russia in the 1990s, repackaged and sold again by Joe Biden as vice president under the Obama administration. It's about American economic control over the levers of Russian economic influence. It's about the empowerment of a class of oligarchs that are beholden to the United States, not to the Russian government. It's about undoing all of the economic reforms that Vladimir Putin has put in place for the last 26 years.

So is this a serious talk about peace? No. It's just a simple repackaging of the same policy objectives that have been in place for decades about the subordination of Russia to the American economic-political giant. This is about Russia getting on its knees and begging the United States to embrace them as the father embraces the prodigal son. This is stupidity personified. Am I glad that the United States and Russia are talking? Of course I am. Hell, I've just spent the last several years going to Russia repeatedly. I'll go to Russia again. Why? To promote the kind of conversations that are necessary to further relations.

But if anybody thinks for a second that Donald Trump's serious about peace with Russia, then you have to be able to answer everything I just threw up there. And you can't. Nobody can. This is not serious at all. This is happening because Russia's winning the war. Yeah, Gilbert Doctorow, try and prove me wrong on this one. Russia's winning the war decisively. And Russia is as solid as it's ever been domestically. There are no cracks within the Russian machine. None whatsoever. One hundred percent behind Vladimir Putin's efforts. And they're winning politically, economically, militarily. And the Trump administration understands that if they allow this thing to keep going unfettered, that the entire Ukrainian experiment collapses.

And so they're trying to gain control of the collapse. But again, they're not serious about peace because they have hidden objectives in Europe as well. NATO 3.0—how do we define? How can you have a NATO 3.0 when NATO collapses? How can you maintain control of the European Union when the European Union collapses? And when Ukraine collapses, and it will collapse soon, so goes Europe, so goes Russia. NATO—they won't survive. And this is bad for Trump because the vacuum that will be created will produce outcomes that are uncontrollable by the United States. The United

States is about maintaining control over the system. Yes, we use chaos to create conditions where we can come in and manipulate.

But this isn't chaos. We're talking about an absolute collapse. And you see it. You see it happening. You see it happening in Germany, where AfD had a wonderful result despite everything the German government has tried to do to undermine them. You see Marine Le Pen making a move in France, where Macron will be out. How long will Andy Burnham stay in power? We don't know, but probably not very long. We're looking at the total collapse of the European system that has been in play now for five-plus decades. This isn't good for the United States. We don't want a total collapse. We want to ensure we want a weakened Europe that we can control.

But the United States can't control European political elements who have arisen from the ashes of a debacle that we ourselves are responsible for creating. So Trump's not serious about any of this. He's not. This is simply an act of desperation on the part of the United States. I hope that Russia treats it as such. I'm stunned, though. I'm stunned by the diplomacy of Ushakov and Putin and others. I understand where they have to come from. But, my God, how do you square the positive comments being made today with simply comments that were made a few months ago? The United States is saying, remember that? About Anchorage? Marco Rubio, there was no agreement. He's a liar. Putin called him a liar. Lavrov called him a liar.

Pretty much called Trump a liar. Called the United States agreement-incapable. What has changed now that the United States is agreement-capable? I mean, this is just ridiculous. Putin, just the other day, gave a press conference where he said, you know, economically, the United States is out there seeking to undermine and do this and manipulate and do this. What do you think they're going to try to do to Russia? You think they're going in with a clean heart? There's nothing pure of heart about anything the United States does. So, you know, maybe this is just a diplomatic smokescreen put up there to, you know, play the game while Russia continues to win on the battlefield. There's nothing serious about this initiative at all. It's going nowhere.

#Glenn

Well, at the same time as they're doing this polite diplomacy with the U.S., you also see Putin making these comments that the U.S. kind of got what it wanted. That was Ukrainians and Russians fighting each other, Europe and Russia divided. So it's not as if—it doesn't look like they bought into this whole, you know, peace president pitch by Trump. But what do you see being the Russian response, though, to this, you know, this initiative that Witkoff and Kushner are coming over? Because from what I read, the Russian demands have only increased, and Putin countered it with an ultimatum to Zelensky. So what do you see being the Russian, I guess, the wider Russian response here?

#Scott Ritter

23 Iskanders into Kyiv last night. That's the response, and I hope tomorrow's 50, and I hope the day after is 100. This desire to appease the United States, I mean, personally, I'm happy, because it's better than the Biden freeze-out. But, you know, I just hope that they don't take their foot off the pedal. I mean, Russia has positioned itself over the course of five years to be at this point in time where they can achieve everything they want to achieve. It's all there. There's nothing that can stop them. Nothing that can stop them. And for Russia to take its foot off the pedal now would just be a catastrophic mistake on the part of Russia.

Finish the job. Shoot the dog. Kill the Banderites. And then you won't have any more problems, because as soon as you destroy the Ukrainian dog, Europe collapses. The current political and economic elites, the cabal that runs the senior-most ranks of the European political establishment, they'll collapse as well. Now you've addressed the root causes of the conflict. And then maybe the United States will stop pretending that it can somehow use Ukraine and Europe as leverage to do what you just said, bring Russians and Ukrainians fighting one another and all that. I'm sorry, but that's the only solution right now.

There can be no peace with Ukraine as it currently exists. For decades now, they've been trained to hate Russians. Europe is blind to this. I hope you're not blind to this. I'm not blind to this. I know what happens in Ukrainian schools. I know what happens to Ukrainian children when they're told to talk about Russia, how they hate the Russians. "Jump if you hate the Russians." You've seen the video where they all have to jump. They are bred to hate Russians. So the only solution is to destroy the entity that permits this hatred to take place. And if you don't do this, then this war will continue over and over.

And this is for the first time the Trump administration, I think, recognizes this because they said there will have to be constitutional changes that recognize the permanence of Russia's territorial acquisitions. The permanence of that. That wasn't in previous ones. Russia has always said that that has to be the case. But now the United States is doing it. And there will have to be constitutional changes to protect the rights of Russians. But how do you have constitutional changes without a change in government? And now the Trump administration is talking about the necessity of elections. But these aren't going to be elections that put Buzanov in place.

The Russian elections are the ones that you and I have talked about and I've told you about. They're the ones that purge Ukraine of this Western Ukrainian nonsense, when they blow up the pantheon of heroes, and they disinter the bodies of the Banderas and burn them and scatter their ashes into the seven winds so they can never again be collected and brought together to be revered by the illness that is Western Ukrainian nationalism. If Europe doesn't recognize how sick this is—to disinter the bodies of these Nazi murderers and bring them and bury them in the soil of the most sacred part of the Eastern Orthodox faith—does Europe not understand how sick this is? This is a sickness. This is an illness that can't be cured. It can only be destroyed. So I think that's where we're headed right now. And the United States is starting to come on board.

But again, when the Trump administration gives orders to stop their policy that furthers the strategic defeat of Russia, when the Trump administration acts against Europe to ensure... Because right now the Trump administration is selling Europe the weapons that they're selling to Ukraine. You do know that today in Russia, in the war, there will be dozens of Russians who are going to die today. Dozens. Maybe more. Maybe over a hundred. Killed by the United States, killed by the policies of the United States. That's not a path to peace. The United States is in the business of killing Russians as we speak. As we speak, the policy of the United States is to kill Russians. So how can we talk about the United States being serious about peace as long as they continue to put Kushner and Witkoff in front of that cocaine addict.

You saw that man, how he behaved on camera. Is that a rational human being? That's a man who's lost his senses. He's a man who recognizes that his future is short. That's a man who recognizes that his corrupt past is catching up with him, that he's not long for this world. Put him out of his misery, he and everybody else in his government. They should be put on notice that they have no future. None. Budanov and Zaluzhny should not be allowed to think that they are going to be the future of Ukraine. They will not be. They are the problem, not the solution. I think Russia needs to articulate this more firmly so that nobody has any doubts about how this is going to end. Because this isn't going to end with an American-brokered peace that keeps the sickness that is a Banderist Ukrainian rump state alive.

#Glenn

Well, it doesn't seem, though, that at least the rest of the West is really on board with this desire to make any peace. Not that the U.S. would be, but you probably saw this Leipzig drone attack, as they called it, where they found a drone on the runway, and it was followed by a massive media campaign. And now, of course, Zelensky is making threats against civilian airliners in Russia. How do you assess this development? Because for me, it gave me a bit of a Nord Stream déjà vu. That is, all evidence points towards Russia, but we don't actually show any of the evidence. How are you seeing this? Are the Europeans ramping up the pressure as well?

#Scott Ritter

What pressure? Well, I was in the SMO region in June, and I spent some time with Russian drone units. And every single one of them has a technical workshop where they repair their drones or they evaluate captured Ukrainian drones. And, I mean, these guys are good. We talked about the different sizes of drones, the different weights. We talked about the power of the motors, the different size propellers needed to get the lift depending on payloads, et cetera. So what I will tell you is that the Russians know drones very, very well. So why would they make a drone that's sick? Because this was a sick drone. This drone couldn't even get off the ground. It didn't have any power. I mean, I wish the Germans would publish the technical details of this drone.

I'd like to know a couple of things. I'd like to know what kind of engines they had, what kind of motors they were. What was the power of the motors? What about the propellers? Was this drone designed to carry the payload that it was said to do? Because apparently, when the driver saw it, it was just sort of hovering there sickly. It wasn't moving. It just sort of hovered there sickly, like it was supposed to do that. So what were the technical characteristics of this drone? Because it looks like a homemade piece of crap. It certainly doesn't look like a drone that the Russians, who are experts in drone warfare, would have put together. So I don't think Russia had anything to do with this drone.

I'd like to know what the components were. Is this a drone manufactured from scratch? Is this a drone that was purchased, you know, from the open market? Give me the technical characteristics of it. What frequencies was it operating on? What was the camera system? Because, you know, drones have to have, in addition to being guided—they're guided—if you wanted to guide a drone, Glenn, and I gave you the ability to communicate with the drone, how would you communicate? How would you guide the drone if you couldn't see where the drone was flying? All right. So not only do you have to broadcast to the drone, the drone has to broadcast a signal back to you, a signal that has the imagery based upon its onboard optics.

What were the onboard optics? Did it have onboard optics? Was there a camera on this thing? What frequency was it broadcasting back to? And then what strength was that? That gives you an idea of where somebody could be. Is this a drone that's designed to operate from 10 kilometers, 20 kilometers? They didn't tell us anything about this drone. They showed us a sick, stupid piece of junk. And we're supposed to believe that this is the tip of the spear of a Russian effort to do what? Cripple Europe by hovering a drone that can't do anything over a piece of ground? Anybody who believes this drone story is stupid, dumb. That defines all of Europe, with few exceptions. Anybody who buys into this is stupid. This is not a real story.

It's not a real story. This isn't a real threat. If you look, how did the United States go to war against Spain back in the 1890s? We blew up our own battleship. We blew up our own battleship. All right, that's a false flag. So if this was supposed to be a real false flag, if you're serious about going to war with Russia, come on, Germany, get a real drone in there. Go to the Ukrainians. Now tell the guy to do it. Go to the Ukrainians and get one of the captured Russian drones that they brought down with electronic warfare. Fix it up with nothing but Russian parts. You have lots of Russian parts there. Then get four or five guys undercover, disguise their face or whatever, and then create a cover story. Have them come in over the border from Montenegro and have them stay in a hotel. Have them get jobs to get into the community.

Have them go, you know, create a path that leads them outside of Leipzig in a car, where they will launch a drone that has high explosives into an airplane as it seeks to take off from Leipzig, blowing up the airplane and killing 230 people. Now you've got a deal. Now you've got a false flag. Actual dead bodies on the ground. When they investigate, they go, "Oh my God, look, we have a car, a

rental car in the field. We found the drone thing. Well, boom, let's trace it back. Oh, we got a guy with a license. Boom, we got four people coming in." There's your false flag, Glenn. Now you go to war. So what does this tell me? Europe doesn't want to go to war. This isn't a false flag. This is stupidity. This is part of the overall game. How can Europe go to war? Let's say this was a real false flag.

What would Europe do today to go to war against Russia? Germany can't get a brigade out of the barracks. If Germany had six months, Germany could get one light armored brigade going. But where does it go? Because they have no logistical sustainability. The British can't get a brigade across the Channel. All right, the British can talk all they want. They're not going to get a brigade across. The French can't get a brigade out of the port. But let's say all three of them did. They got three brigades together. They can call it the NATO division, the Division of Righteousness, striking the Russians back for the crime they committed in Leipzig. And they take it to Romania, and it can't get out of the port because they don't have any fuel. But they bring it up, and they bring it to the border, and it crosses the border.

And a wave of Russian drones, real Russian drones, comes in and kills every single one of those sons of bitches before they get five kilometers across the border. That's the reality. NATO, Europe can do nothing. They've got nothing. And so this is just stupidity done by stupid people who are desperate to create instruments of manipulation. This was probably designed to put down AfD. This isn't designed to go against Russia, because I told you, to go against Russia, if you really want to go against Russia, kill people. That's a false flag. Kill people. They didn't do that. They just put a sick, hovering drone over the ground, and the driver came out, kicked it down, and now, whoa, it's there. This was done to say to the Germans, anybody who supports Russia supports the terrorist attack on Leipzig.

It was designed to diminish support in AfD before the election. That's what this is about. Europe is not serious about war with Russia. The Germans aren't serious. They published a paper that makes it look like they're serious. They put out letters to 300,000 German men of military age saying, "Join the great Fourth Reich so we can march off. Drang nach Osten, let's go. Plan Ost, let's kill them all this time." And they got 253 responses. 253 Germans who wanted to commit suicide. Everybody else said no. So how's Germany going to do this? I mean, Norway. What the hell is Norway thinking? I don't know. An act of piracy, kidnapping Russians. I mean, they're just so lucky that the Russians decided not to send a Marine battalion landing team to Spitsbergen and retake their citizens, because it's an act of war, what Norway did. But Norway's not sure.

What if Russia had done that? Norway's got nothing. A navy? The Norwegian Navy? The Norwegian Army? No. No. They've got nothing. They're over here creating these provocations because they've been brainwashed into believing that Russia is this paper tiger. Well, then go to Ukraine if you think Russia is a paper tiger. Because the Russians are slaughtering Ukrainians by the bushelful right now. All those NATO-trained Ukrainians, NATO-equipped Ukrainians, are dying in massive numbers. Budanov says you need 30,000 new guys a month just to keep the status quo. Oh no, Kirill, redo

your math, buddy. It's going to be 50 grand after this month. And it's going to get worse because the Russians are just slaughtering you every single day. And they're not taking casualties, not anywhere near the casualties that people talk about.

#Glenn

Russian economy going to the dumps.

#Scott Ritter

Russia's repaired 90% of the oil infrastructure that was hit, 90%. They'll get the other 10% up by the end of the month. So what, Ukraine's going to send more drones in that they can't afford? They exhausted their budget. They ate \$27 billion that was supposed to be for this half of the year, buying drones for the first half of the year, and they've used all their drones. And now Europe is going to build them more drones and send them over? This is a joke, Glenn, a tragic joke that's played out in the blood of Ukrainians. That's the saddest part here. And now we have the Ukrainians, you know, the life expectancy, first half of 2026, 76 or 78,000 live births, four times as many recorded deaths. Those aren't including the ones on the battlefields.

You can't have four times as many people die than are born and expect a nation to survive. And yet the only thing that can give birth to a new Ukrainian baby is a Ukrainian woman. And now they're talking about mobilizing the women and sending them to the front lines. If you want to talk about an extinction-level event for a nation, look at Ukraine. I mean, they're out there now saying, "Oh, Ukrainian women are perfect for drones because they have better hand-eye skills, and they're good-looking, so they can do the little, you know, OnlyFans page while they're flying drones," whatever they want to do. I talked to a Russian drone operator who was a woman. Combat experience, hard. I said, "Are women better?" She said, "They do have the better hand-eye coordination thing."

She said, "But they always hesitate when it comes time to kill. They always hesitate when it comes time to kill. They don't have the killer instinct." So maybe Ukrainian women aren't the best thing. But here's the other thing: the most dangerous job in Ukraine today, besides being an infantryman around Kharkov, is to be a drone operator. I said a month ago the Russians are killing 80 to 100 of them. I think that number is closer to more than 200 drone operators a day are dying in Ukraine. 200 a day. So if you want to be a Ukrainian woman, become a drone operator. Hey, you're going to die. It's a guarantee. So they're making Ukraine go extinct. They, the United States and Europe, are making Ukraine go extinct as we speak. And yet people think this is a good idea.

#Glenn

On the topic of drones, though, again, drones are front and center now in the recent developments of the war. But these technologies continue to change. And as you said, the ability to track down these drone operators has increased significantly. Did you see anything else, though, changing on

the front lines in terms of the availability of drones, both the quality, the quantity, but also how they can be intercepted or blocked? Or do you see any changes there at all? Because this is quite significant to predict the direction of this war. Yeah.

#Scott Ritter

Look, the Russians made it clear that the Ukrainians have virtually unlimited resources and that the best technology of the West is being brought to bear. Every single Russian I talked to, every single drone operator, went, "Yeah, no, Ukrainian drones are good. They're really good. Very capable." And when the Ukrainians deploy the drones for the first time, when they insert a new technology, the Russians have to adapt. And so there's a period of time where the Russians, you know, live what they call an interesting life. But, you know, the sad thing is that the Ukrainians apply, you know, 80% of their drones to murder Russian civilians in the Donbas, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson, Crimea. All right? So anybody talks about drone warfare, da, da, da. It's about murder.

It's about the Ukrainians murdering Russians, Ukrainians murdering Russians, and anybody helping the Ukrainians is murdering Russians. And they should be treated that way. You know, about 20% of the Ukrainian effort goes against the Russian soldiers. And they make life hard for the Russians while that technology is new. The Russians go around, you know, they clean up the battlefield. When the Ukrainian drones come in and go pop, pop, pop, pop, pop, the Russians are going in and picking up the pieces. They bring it back. I've been to so many Ukrainian drone graveyards where the Russians pick through them, rebuild the thing, and then they evaluate it. They sit there and they evaluate the drone, how it operates, how it communicates. And then they sit there and say, "How can we counter this?"

And they come up with electronic warfare solutions, et cetera. While I was there, the big thing for the Russians was building interceptor drones. And they sent them up. And while I was there, they hadn't fully functioned yet. Today, they're there, and they're blowing everything out of the sky. Will Ukraine come up with the next generation of drone that's going to befuddle the Russians? Yes. Yes, of course they will. You got the total economic might, industrial power of the West sitting there building drones for Ukraine. And so there will be a period of time where Russian drone operators go, "Oh, damn, here they come, new drone, don't know what to do. Okay, boys, go down, hunker down." Bam, bam, bam, bam. Piece, piece, piece, piece. Got the solution. Blow them out of the sky. Then go and kill every son of a bitch who launched a drone against them.

Because that's what the Russians do better than anybody. They kill Ukrainian drone operators. But the Russians have some few surprises of their own. You know, there was a recent interview where a deputy commander of the Azov unit was talking about, you know, what was happening on the battlefield. He said, you know, one of the problems with Ukraine is they put an over-reliance on Starlink, because Starlink's pretty cool. Starlink, you can communicate, communicate, communicate. Starlink, they helped you kill 21 sleeping students at Starobelsk. Yay, Starlink. Starlink allowed them to put a Hornet drone into the convoy I was in. Yay, Starlink. But the Russians have figured Starlink

out. And now the guy says they send their Starlink-enabled drones to the battlefield, and they don't work anymore.

They don't work anymore because the Russians solved that one. And the Russians will solve everything. The Russians are better at war than any other nation in the world. They're better at war than any other nation in the world. Ukraine's not good at war. People need to understand this. Ukraine's good at receiving technology from other people and then dying trying to use that technology on the battlefield. So the Ukrainians are willing to die using superior technology provided by the West. The Russians are the total package, though. The Russians are out there with their own technological advances and stuff. And the Russians' is broad spectrum. You know, nobody talks about, you know, the Russians ran out of missiles. Hell, Russians couldn't launch a missile without a washing machine chip.

Remember that one? They had to go and steal all the washing machines from the Ukrainians to get the chips so they could put them in their missiles so the missiles could fly. They ran out of missiles a long time ago. Hell, David Petraeus was saying they ran out of missiles in 2022. Others were saying they ran out of missiles in 2023. Gilbert Doctorow said they ran out of missiles in 2024. I'm making that up, but I'm just throwing his name in there because I don't like him. 2025, 2026, they just run out of missiles. They run out of missiles. They ain't running out of missiles. The Russians have solved the missile production problem. There ain't no problem producing missiles. And 23 Iskanders hit Kiev last night. And they will continue hitting Kiev. Now Russians have built a new class of drones.

They don't just have the Shahed-136s that fly in with their gas-powered piston engines. They have the Geran-4s and 5s and 6s and 8s, and jet-powered. And the Ukrainians don't have a solution to this. And they're blowing everything up. And on the battlefield, Russian tactics—again, please never talk to another person who talks about Russian human wave tactics, all right? Because the second someone says a Russian human wave tactic, that means that they don't know what they're talking about, and you should not listen to them. The Russians come in with very sophisticated ground tactics that go around threes, sixes, nines, and twelves. If you have a guy talking about three, six, nine, twelve, you say, okay, they may know what they're talking about, because that's how this war has been broken down.

Small-unit tactics going after small localized objectives, overwhelming it with firepower. Drone overwatch, drones in support, seizing the territory, killing all the Ukrainians, consolidating the territory, and then going forward. It's a slow, deliberate war. And sometimes the Ukrainians can flood the zone with drones, which they've done. They can throw a lot of drones. And when that happens, I don't give a damn who you are, you can't move. I'm here to tell you right now, you can't move when the drones are in the air, because if you move, you die. Okay, so there comes a period of time where you just have to hunker the hell down and let the drones out there until the Russians bring in Rubicon or some other unit now that's specialized in solving the drone problem.

They go out there and they kill all the drone operators, and then the drones stop flying, and the Russians begin their advance again. You can't stop the Russian army. They're the only army in the world that has figured out how to advance in a sustained manner in a drone-intensive environment. The United States Army, yay America, USA, USA, heavy armor brigade, bam, the biggest armored fist in the world, went up against a handful of Ukrainian drone operators who stopped them three times. Army can't survive. Our army can't survive. We're ten times better than anything Europe's got. Understand that. Europe's got nothing. You've got nothing. American heavy armor brigade against any European formation would just run over them.

And the Ukrainians stopped, and the Russians are better than the Ukrainians. So anyways, that's that. I'm just a little frustrated because I'm furious at people who think that what the United States is trying to do today in Russia is a serious peace effort. And I'm furious that anybody thinks that the longer this war drags on, there's a chance that Russia will somehow lose this war. Russia will not lose this war. Russia is winning this war. And, you know, it's just the way it is. And the longer this war is sustained, then it just means the extinction of Ukraine. The extinction of Ukraine. We're talking about an extinction-level event taking place before our very eyes.

#Glenn

Well, no, the way you frame it, that's the impression I get in Moscow as well, the anger which is building up there, because it seems, at least in Europe, to take very lightly what they're actually doing, what they're participating in. I don't think they realize how much destruction they have contributed to. And, you know, at the same time, they're all pretending as if, well, we're not really participants, we're just, you know, helping them defend themselves. So I think the buy-in to this narrative is extremely dangerous. But they still think Moscow Maidan is just around the corner, you know, just to keep it going a little bit longer, maybe recruit some women, and then they keep the war going a bit longer, and then, you know, victory is just around the corner. But I'm nervous. I'm supposed to be going to Moscow later this month. I'm scared because I'm very concerned that I'll be, like, walking through Red Square doing my little tourist thing, and the crowd's going to appear.

#Scott Ritter

And, you know, I'll be caught up in a sort of this revolutionary spirit as people throw themselves over the Kremlin walls to grab Putin and drag him out. The guillotine will be set up, and off with his head, and Lavrov will be screaming as they bring him out. I'm nervous about that because that's the kind of city Moscow is. I mean, it's full of these anti-Putin revolutionaries, people who are just very frustrated about the standard of living that they enjoy. And, you know, I see you smirking because, you know, I'm being facetious. All right. Anybody who thinks for a second that there's a revolutionary undercurrent in Russia today—and you know who I'm talking about—I don't mean to bring it down to this level.

But anybody who thinks there's the potential of a coup against Russia—that the, I mean, my God, the notion that the military could be plotting against Vladimir Putin—it just shows ignorance, total ignorance about how Russia works. Russia's going in the other direction. I mean, you know, people used to, you know, there used to be whispers against Putin. There's no whispers against Putin right now. They just want dead Ukrainians. And frankly speaking, if Europe continues, then they want dead Europeans as well. Russia's tired of the war. That doesn't mean that they want to lose. That doesn't mean they want to kneel. It just means that they want victory, and victory on their terms.

I don't think Trump understands the mistake he made in not taking the compromise that Vladimir Putin put on the table in Alaska. That was the last great chance for the American experiment to live. Because had he done that, Ukraine would have lived. This Nazi-infused manifestation of modern-day geopolitical cancer would have survived. And then the United States could have played the game. Bring in your economic... We could have played the game very well. It was a strategic mistake for Russia to put that compromise on the table. Thank God America blew it. And now I don't think Russia is ever going to make that mistake again. Because things have happened. Things have happened economically. Things have happened politically, geopolitically, globally, that have now empowered Russia to be much more decisive.

People tend to forget that 26 years ago, Boris Yeltsin almost destroyed Russia. People tend to forget that. People tend to forget what the decade of the 1990s was and how hard it is to reverse the control of the oligarchs. Vladimir Putin's not a dictator. Vladimir Putin's the president of a nation that was deeply corrupt, deeply sick, and he's been bringing it out of this corruption. But all of the pistons haven't been firing on the Russian engine for a long time. But thanks to Europe and the United States, the pistons are now firing. And there's no chance to reverse this unless Russia commits some sort of deliberate suicide. And I don't see the Russian government or the Russian people allowing that to happen.

#Glenn

Well, thank you for taking the time. Yeah, I think historians will look back at the mistake that the U. S. made by walking away from the deal in Anchorage. I think that was as good as it gets. So, yeah, it's going to be... Yes, Mearsheimer often points out a very ugly peace or ugly victory at the end of this. And, yeah, that seems to be coming very soon, as you said before. It will be a beautiful victory, though, for Russia.

#Scott Ritter

Because I think this victory will... it will do that which would have been impossible to do unless everybody made these mistakes. You know, Russia, as you know, Russia has been the target of the collective West for a long time, for a long time. There's never been a period of time where we've been sincere friends with Russia. Even during World War II, we were simply sustaining the Russians to kill Germans. But look how quickly we changed our tune, how quickly Churchill was willing to, you

know, remobilize the Nazis to take on the Russians, the Soviets, at the end of the Second World War. We have never been the friends. Russia has never once lived in a period of time where the West was its true friend.

And here we have a chance. And I say we, because this is something that we in the West should be recognizing as well. A Russian victory on Russian terms will not mean Russia occupying Europe. The Russians don't want to have anything to do with this sick, failed state called Europe. But what it means is that Europe can now purge itself, cleanse itself of NATO, of the EU, of the G7, of the sickness that the United States has imposed on it as an effort to go against the Russians. And the United States has to confront a new world, a new reality where Russia has no choice but to be treated as an equal. We could actually get, through a real Russian victory, a beautiful peace.

Because anything less than a real Russian victory will never be a peace. It will always be—look at Angela Merkel today, still telling about what, you know, she just gave an interview where she, again, once again, Minsk was a lie. It was a lie. Ukraine couldn't have survived without the pause given to it by Minsk. I thought it was supposed to be about peace. It was never about peace. Europe never wants peace with Russia. The United States has never wanted peace with Russia. So Russia needs to have a beautiful victory. Because by a beautiful victory, you destroy all those things that have been positioning themselves to bring Russia down for decades.

And we have to be honest about it. Nobody in Europe ever wanted peace with Russia. If they did, there would have been peace. Nobody in the United States ever wanted peace with Russia. If we did, there would have been peace. And Ukraine represents the manifestation of all this anti-Russian sentiment. And now Europe has elevated Ukraine into being an existential struggle against Russia, but they failed. They lost. The only existential demise that will take place because of this is the collapse of Ukraine, and then the collapse of the European political and economic elites that created this Ukrainian model. That's a beautiful peace in my mind.